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(54) Title: ARYL SUBSTITUTED PYRIDINECARBOXAMIDES AND THEIR USE AS SODIUM CHANNEL BLOCKERS

(57) Abstract: This invention relates aryl substituted pyridines of Formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein Ar and R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>4</sub> are set in the specification. The invention is also directed to the use of compounds of Formula I for the treatment of neuronal damage following global and focal ischemia, for the treatment or prevention of neurodegenerative conditions such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and for the treatment, prevention or amelioration of both acute or chronic pain, as antitinnitus agents, as anticonvulsants, and as antimanic depressants, as local anesthetics, as antiarrhythmics and for the treatment or prevention of diabetic neuropathy.

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## ARYL-SUBSTITUTED PYRIDINECARBOXAMIDES AND THEIR USE AS SODIUM CHANNEL BLOCKERS

## Field of the Invention

This invention is in the field of medicinal chemistry. In particular, the invention relates to novel aryl substituted pyridines and the discovery that these compounds act as blockers of sodium ( $\text{Na}^+$ ) channels.

## Related Art

Several classes of therapeutically useful drugs, including local anesthetics such as lidocaine and bupivacaine, antiarrhythmics such as propafenone and amiodarone, and anticonvulsants such as lamotrigine, phenytoin and carbamazepine, have been shown to share a common mechanism of action by blocking or modulating  $\text{Na}^+$  channel activity (Catterall, W.A., *Trends Pharmacol. Sci.* 8:57-65 (1987)). Each of these agents is believed to act by interfering with the rapid influx of  $\text{Na}^+$  ions.

Recently, other  $\text{Na}^+$  channel blockers such as BW619C89 and lifarizine have been shown to be neuroprotective in animal models of global and focal ischemia and are presently in clinical trials (Graham *et al.*, *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.* 269:854-859 (1994); Brown *et al.*, *British J. Pharmacol.* 115:1425-1432 (1995)).

The neuroprotective activity of  $\text{Na}^+$  channel blockers is due to their effectiveness in decreasing extracellular glutamate concentration during ischemia by inhibiting the release of this excitotoxic amino acid neurotransmitter. Studies have shown that unlike glutamate receptor antagonists,  $\text{Na}^+$  channel blockers prevent hypoxic damage to mammalian white matter (Stys *et al.*, *J. Neurosci.* 12:430-439 (1992)). Thus, they may offer advantages for treating certain types of strokes or neuronal trauma where damage to white matter tracts is prominent.

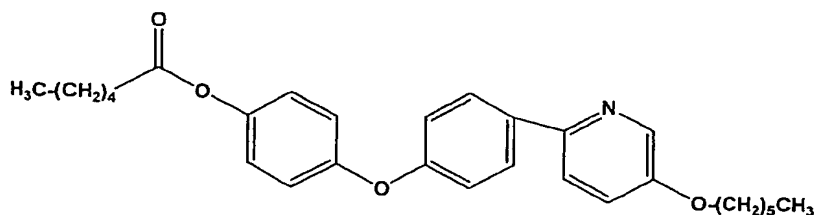
Another example of clinical use of a  $\text{Na}^+$  channel blocker is riluzole. This drug has been shown to prolong survival in a subset of patients with ALS

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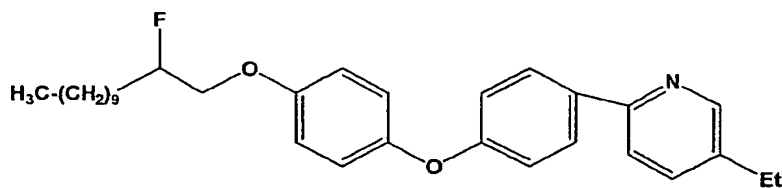
(Bensimm *et al.*, *New Engl. J. Med.* 330:585-591 (1994)) and has subsequently been approved by the FDA for the treatment of ALS. In addition to the above-mentioned clinical uses, carbamazepine, lidocaine and phenytoin are occasionally used to treat neuropathic pain, such as from trigeminal neurologia, diabetic neuropathy and other forms of nerve damage (Taylor and Meldrum, *Trends Pharmacol. Sci.* 16:309-316 (1995)), and carbamazepine and lamotrigine have been used for the treatment of manic depression (Denicott *et al.*, *J. Clin. Psychiatry* 55: 70-76 (1994)). Furthermore, based on a number of similarities between chronic pain and tinnitus, (Moller, A. R. *Am. J. Otol.* 18: 577-585 (1997); Tonndorf, *J. Hear. Res.* 28: 271-275 (1987)) it has been proposed that tinnitus should be viewed as a form of chronic pain sensation (Simpson, J. J. and Davies, E. W. *Tip.* 20: 12-18 (1999)). Indeed, lignocaine and carbamazepine have been shown to be efficacious in treating tinnitus (Majumdar, B. *et al. Clin. Otolaryngol.* 8: 175-180 (1983); Donaldson, I. *Laryngol. Otol.* 95: 947-951 (1981)).

It has been established that there are at least five to six sites on the voltage-sensitive  $\text{Na}^+$  channels which bind neurotoxins specifically (Catterall, W.A., *Science* 242:50-61 (1988)). Studies have further revealed that therapeutic antiarrhythmics, anticonvulsants and local anesthetics whose actions are mediated by  $\text{Na}^+$  channels, exert their action by interacting with the intracellular side of the  $\text{Na}^+$  channel and allosterically inhibiting interaction with neurotoxin receptor site 2 (Catterall, W.A., *Ann. Rev. Pharmacol. Toxicol.* 10:15-43 (1980)).

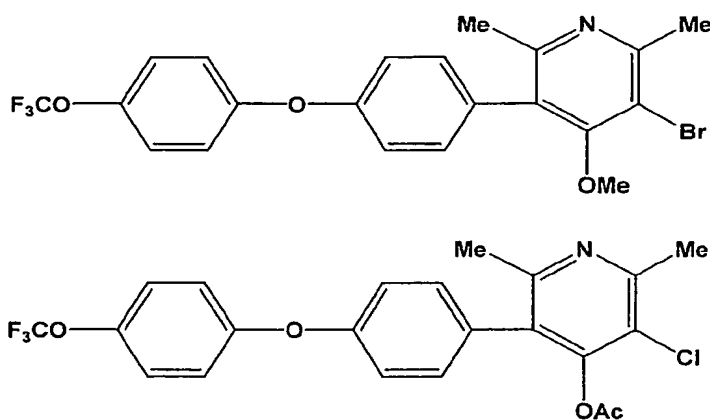
JP 07076542 A2 describes liquid crystals and liquid crystal compositions comprising the following compounds:



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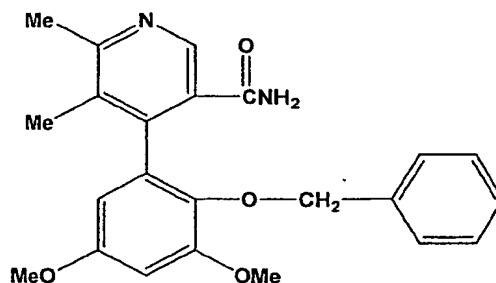


U.S. Patent No. 5,403,934 describes the following intermediates for preparing antimalarials:



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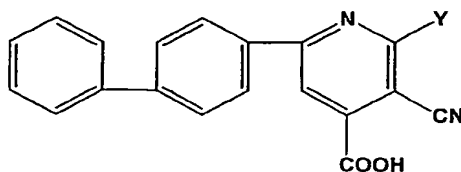
Liao *et al.* (*J. Heterocycl. Chem.* 13:1283-1288 (1976)) describe the following formula:



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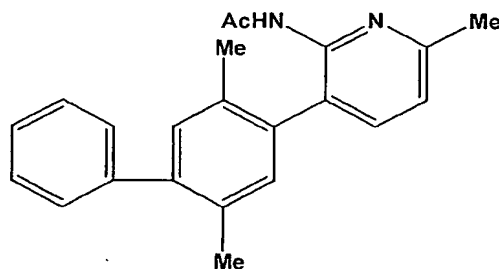
Salman (*Pharmazie* 54:178-183 (1999)) describes an antibacterial/antifungal compound of formula:

- 4 -



wherein Y is NHMe or OMe.

WO 9938829 describes a compound of formula:

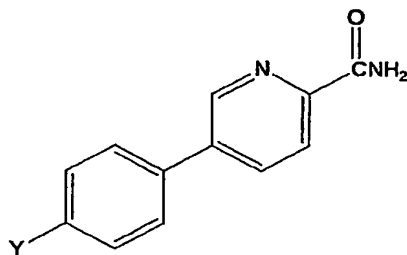


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This compound is described to be useful as an immunosuppressant or an antiallegry agent.

Karamysheva *et al.* (*Mol. Cryst. Liq. Cryst.* 67:241-251 (1981))

10 describe compounds of formula:

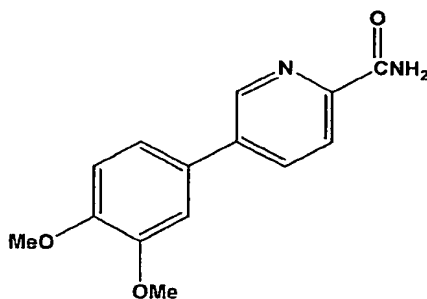


wherein Y is a straight chain C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl or alkoxy.

DE 3245950 describes a compound of the following formula that is

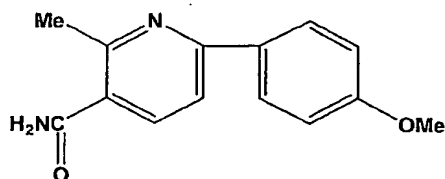
15 described to be useful as an antihypertensive:

- 5 -

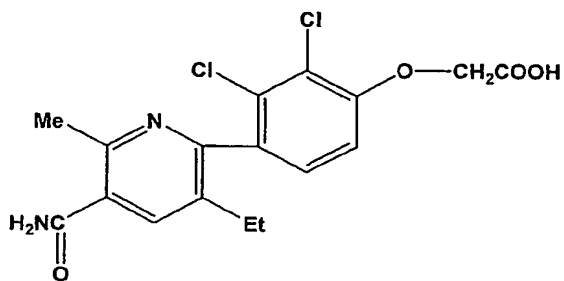


U.S. Patent No. 4,920,119 describes several 2-phenyl-3-aminopyridine-4-carboxamide derivatives as reactants.

5 Troschuetz *et al.* (*Chem.-Ztg.* 114:321-322 (1990)) describe a compound of formula:

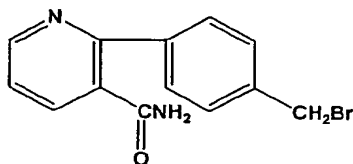
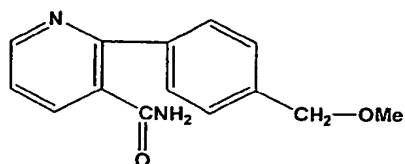


Goerlitzer *et al.* (*Arch. Pharm. (Weinheim, Ger.)* 325:357-359 (1992))  
10 describe a compound of formula:

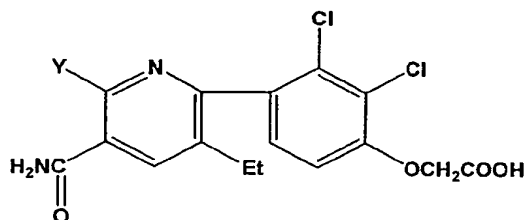


U.S. Patent No. 5,389,632 describes the following compounds as reactants:

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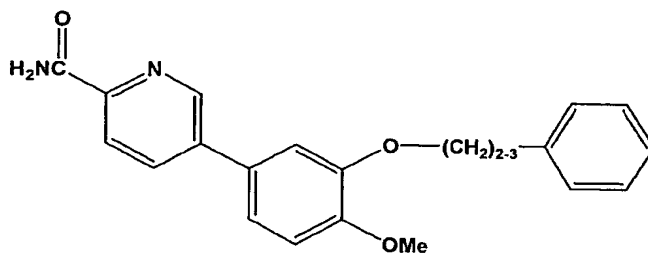
Goerlitzer *et al.* (*Pharmazie* 52:97-100 (1997)) describe the following compounds:



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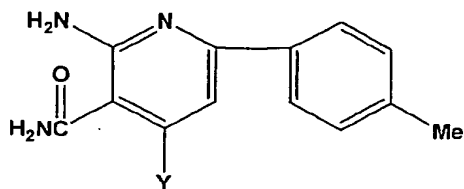
where Y is OMe or OEt.

Chambers *et al.* (*Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* 7:739-744 (1997)) describe the following compounds as useful in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis:



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Reddy *et al.* (*Synth. Commun.* 27:2217-2222 (1997)) describe the following formula:



where Y is H or CF<sub>3</sub>.

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Rottlander *et al.* (*Synlett* (9):1084-1086 (1997)) describe 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide.

Singh *et al.* (*Indian J. Chem., Sect. B: Org. Chem. Incl. Med. Chem.* 37B(5):517-520 (1998)) describe 2-amino-4-*n*-butoxy-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is related to the discovery that aryl substituted pyridines represented by Formula I act as blockers of sodium ( $\text{Na}^+$ ) channels.

The invention is also related with treating a disorder responsive to the blockade of sodium channels in a mammal suffering from excess activity of said channels by administering an effective amount of a compound of Formula I as described herein.

The present invention is also directed to the use of a compound of Formula I for the treatment of neuronal damage following global and focal ischemia, and for the treatment or prevention of neurodegenerative conditions such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), for the treatment of tinnitus, as antimanic depressants, as local anesthetics, as antiarrhythmics, as anticonvulsants and for the treatment or prevention of diabetic neuropathy and for the treatment of pain including both acute and chronic pain and migraine headache.

A number of compounds useful in the present invention have not been heretofor reported. Thus, one aspect of the present invention is directed to the novel aryl substituted pyridines of Formula I.

Another aspect of the present invention is directed to the novel compounds of Formula I as blockers of sodium channels.

A further aspect of the present invention is to provide a method for treating, preventing or ameliorating neuronal loss following global and focal ischemia; treating, preventing or ameliorating pain including acute and chronic pain, and neuropathic pain; treating, preventing or ameliorating convulsion



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and neurodegenerative conditions; treating, preventing or ameliorating manic depression; using as local anesthetics and anti-arrhythmics, and treating tinnitus by administering a compound of Formula I to a mammal in need of such treatment or use.

5        Also, an aspect of the present invention is to provide a pharmaceutical composition useful for treating disorders responsive to the blockade of sodium ion channels, containing an effective amount of a compound of Formula I in a mixture with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents.

10       Further, the present invention is directed to  $^3\text{H}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  radiolabeled compounds of Formula I and their use as radioligands for their binding site on the sodium channel.

15       Additional embodiments and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description that follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The embodiments and advantages of the invention will be realized and attained by means of the elements and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

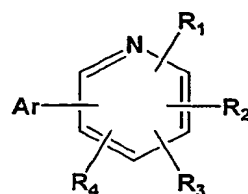
20       It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention, as claimed.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

25       The present invention arises out of the discovery that aryl substituted pyridines of Formula I act as blockers of  $\text{Na}^+$  channels. In view of this discovery compounds of Formula I are useful for treating disorders responsive to the blockade of sodium ion channels.

      The compounds useful in this aspect of the present invention are aryl substituted pyridines represented by Formula I:

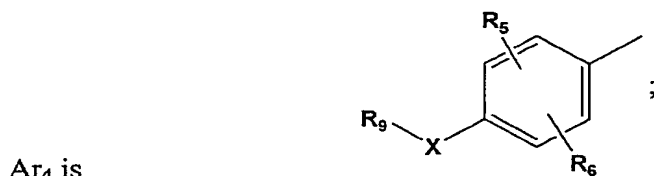
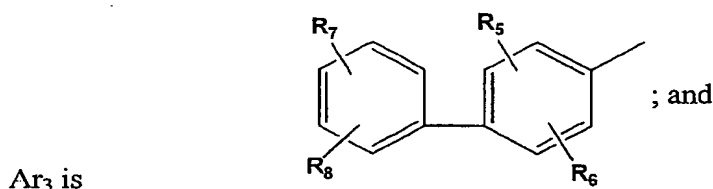
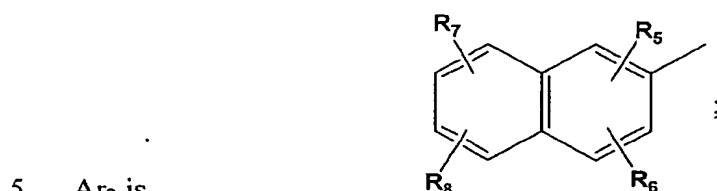
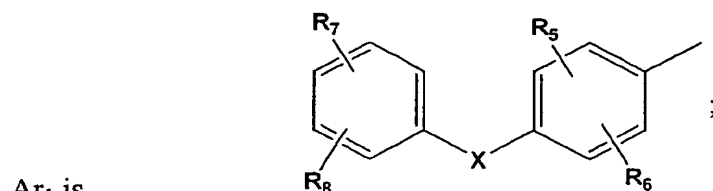
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I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

Ar is selected from the group consisting of Ar<sub>1</sub>, Ar<sub>2</sub>, Ar<sub>3</sub> and Ar<sub>4</sub>, wherein



R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of an optionally substituted alkyl, amino, alkylthiol, C(O)R<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, OC(O)NH<sub>2</sub>, 2-imidazoliny, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, and 3-(1,2,4)-triazolyl;

R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, halogen, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino;

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provided that

- 1) the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with regard to Ar and R<sub>1</sub> or any of R<sub>2</sub>-R<sub>4</sub> that is other than hydrogen; and
- 2) when Ar is Ar<sub>2</sub> or Ar<sub>3</sub>, then R<sub>1</sub> is C(O)R<sub>10</sub>;
- 5 3) when Ar is Ar<sub>4</sub>, then R<sub>1</sub> is aminocarbonyl or an optionally substituted heterocycloalkylaminocarbonyl;

R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, and R<sub>8</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, amide, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, ureido, acylamino, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, carbonylamido and alkylthiol;

R<sub>9</sub> is an optionally substituted alkyl;

R<sub>10</sub> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, OR<sub>11</sub>, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkenylamino, alkylaminoalkenylamino, hydroxyaminoalkenylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that R<sub>10</sub> is not OR<sub>11</sub> when R<sub>1</sub> is SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>; wherein

20 R<sub>11</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, and an alkali metal; and

X is one of O, S, NH, or CH<sub>2</sub> when Ar is Ar<sub>1</sub>; or

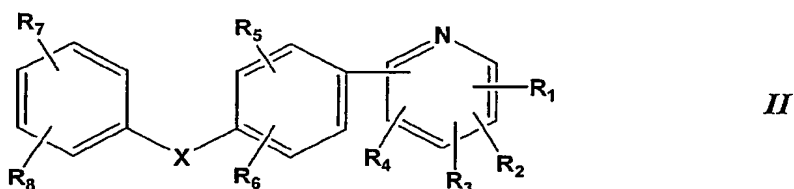
X is one of O, S, NH, or absent (a covalent bond) when Ar is Ar<sub>4</sub>.

Since the compounds of Formula I are blockers of sodium (Na<sup>+</sup>) channels, a number of diseases and conditions mediated by sodium ion influx can be treated employing these compounds. Therefore, the invention is related to a method of treating, preventing or ameliorating neuronal loss associated with stroke, global and focal ischemia, CNS trauma, hypoglycemia and surgery, spinal cord trauma; as well as treating or ameliorating neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, treating or ameliorating anxiety, convulsions,

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glaucoma, migraine headache, and muscle spasm. The compounds of Formula I are also useful as antitinnitus agents, antimanic depressants, as local anesthetics, and as antiarrhythmics; as well as for treating, preventing or ameliorating pain including surgical, chronic and neuropathic pain. In each instance, the methods of the present invention require administering to an animal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a sodium channel blocker of the present invention, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof.

Accordingly, compounds useful in the present invention are aryl substituted pyridines represented by Formula II:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of an optionally substituted alkyl, amino, alkylthiol, C(O)R<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, OC(O)NH<sub>2</sub>, 2-imidazoliny, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, and 3-(1,2,4)-triazolyl;

R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, halogen, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino;

provided that the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with regard to the aryl radical and R<sub>1</sub> or any of R<sub>2</sub>-R<sub>4</sub> that is other than hydrogen;

R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, and R<sub>8</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, amide, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, ureido, acylamino, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, carbonylamido and alkylthiol; and

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$R_{10}$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl,  $OR_{11}$ , amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkenylamino, alkylaminoalkenylamino, hydroxyaminoalkenylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that  $R_{10}$  is not  $OR_{11}$  when  $R_1$  is  $SO_2R_{10}$ ; wherein

$R_{11}$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, and an alkali metal; and

X is one of O, S, NH, or  $CH_2$ .

Another group of compounds useful in this aspect of the present invention are aryl substituted pyridines represented by the general Formula II, wherein  $R_1$ - $R_8$  and  $R_{10}$ - $R_{11}$  are as described above, with the proviso that when X is O,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are each hydrogen, and  $R_1$  is an alkyl group, then  $R_8$  is other than an optionally substituted alkoxy group.

Preferably,  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl optionally substituted by halogen or hydroxy, thiomethyl,  $C(O)R_{10}$ ,  $SO_2R_{10}$ , 2-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, and 5-isoxazolyl, wherein  $R_{10}$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl,  $OR_{11}$ , amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, and heterocycloalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that  $R_{10}$  is not  $OR_{11}$  when  $R_1$  is  $SO_2R_{10}$ .

Preferably,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, amino, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino, more preferably hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aminoalkyl and aminocarbonyl. Preferably both  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are hydrogen.

Preferably,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ , and  $R_8$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl,

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hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, and cyano. More preferably, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, haloalkyl, and nitro. Preferred values of R<sub>5</sub>-R<sub>8</sub> include hydrogen, halo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> hydroxyalkyl, nitro, amino, ureido, cyano, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> acylamido, hydroxy, thiol, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> acyloxy, azido, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, or carboxy. The groups R<sub>5</sub>-R<sub>8</sub> each take the place of a hydrogen atom that would otherwise be present in any position on the aryl ring to which the R group is attached. Especially preferred are compounds where R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are both hydrogen, R<sub>7</sub> is hydrogen and R<sub>8</sub> is a fluoro in the para-position.

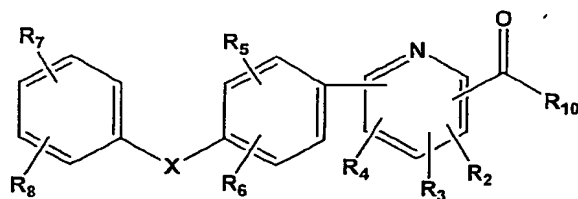
Preferably, R<sub>9</sub> is a branched alkyl group of C<sub>3-10</sub> carbon atoms, more preferably C<sub>3-6</sub> carbon atoms, optionally substituted with one or more of halogen, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, and alkoxy.

Preferably, R<sub>10</sub> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, OR<sub>11</sub>, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, and heterocycloalkylamino, preferably piperidinylethylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, wherein R<sub>11</sub> is as defined above, provided that R<sub>10</sub> is not OR<sub>11</sub> when R<sub>1</sub> is SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>.

Preferably X is O or S, more preferably X is O.

In one aspect of the invention, preferred compounds falling within the scope of Formula II include compounds wherein X is O or S. In this aspect of the invention R<sub>1</sub> is preferably aminocarbonyl or heterocycloalkylaminocarbonyl, especially 2-(N-piperidinyl)ethylaminocarbonyl, and R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> each are preferably hydrogen. Preferred R<sub>5</sub>-R<sub>8</sub> groups are as described above.

The invention also relates to aryl-substituted pyridines represented by Formula III:



III

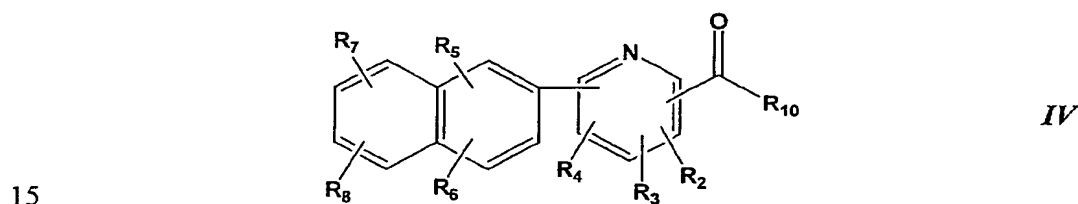
- 14 -

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

$R_2$ - $R_8$ ,  $R_{10}$  and X are defined previously with respect to Formulae I-II;  
provided that the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with  
regard to the aryl radical and  $-C(O)R_{10}$  or any of  $R_2$ - $R_4$  that is other than  
5 hydrogen.

Preferred compounds falling within the scope of Formula III include  
compounds wherein  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ , and  $R_4$  are hydrogen,  $R_{10}$  is amino, and X is O and  
S.  $R_5$  through  $R_8$  have preferred values as described above for Formula II.  
Further, preferably  $R_{10}$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl,  
10 amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl,  
dialkylaminoalkylamino, and heterocycloalkylamino, preferably 2-(N-  
piperidiny)ethylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted.

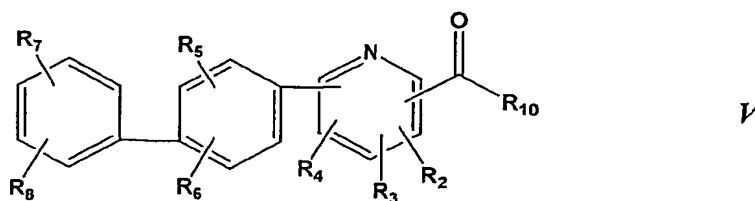
Further, compounds useful in the present invention are aryl substituted  
pyridines represented by Formula IV:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

$R_2$ - $R_8$  are defined previously with respect to Formulae I-III,  
provided that the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with  
regard to the naphthyl radical and  $-C(O)R_{10}$  or any of  $R_2$ - $R_4$  that is other than  
20 hydrogen.  $R_2$  through  $R_8$  have preferred values as described above for  
Formula II. Preferably  $R_2$ - $R_4$  each are hydrogen.

Further, compounds useful in the present invention are aryl substituted  
pyridines represented by Formula V:



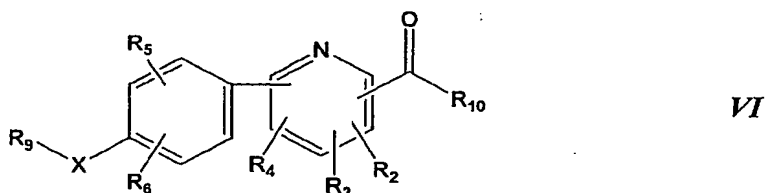
- 15 -

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

$R_2$ - $R_8$  are defined previously with respect to Formulae I-III;

provided that the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with regard to the biphenyl radical and  $-C(O)R_{10}$  or any of  $R_2$ - $R_4$  that is other than hydrogen.  $R_2$  through  $R_8$  have preferred values as described above for Formula II. Preferably  $R_2$ - $R_4$  each are hydrogen.

Also, compounds useful in the present invention are aryl substituted pyridines represented by Formula VI:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

$R_5$ ,  $R_6$ , and  $R_9$  are defined previously with respect to Formulae I-II, X is one of O, S, NH, or absent, and  $R_{10}$  is amino or heterocycloalkylamino;

provided that the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with regard to the phenyl radical and  $-C(O)R_{10}$ .

Another group of compounds useful in this aspect of the present invention are aryl substituted pyridines represented by the general Formula VI, wherein  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $R_9$ , and X are as described above, and  $R_2$ - $R_4$  each are hydrogen, with the proviso that when X is O or absent and  $R_{10}$  is amino, then  $R_9$  is not a straight chain alkyl group optionally mono-substituted with halogen, carboxy, alkoxy, an optionally substituted phenyl, or an optionally substituted aminocarbonyl.

Preferred compounds falling within the scope of Formula VI include compounds wherein X is O, S, or absent. Preferably,  $R_9$  is a branched chain  $C_{3-6}$  alkyl, more preferably  $C_{3-4}$  alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more of halogen, especially fluoro or chloro, or trihalomethyl, especially trifluoromethyl.  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  have preferred values as described above for Formula II.



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Exemplary preferred compounds that may be employed in this method of invention include, without limitation:

- 2-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine-3-carboxamide;
  - 2-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine-4-carboxamide;
  - 5 2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide;
  - 2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide;
  - 5-(4-phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide
  - 2-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine 5-carboxylic acid 2-(N-piperidinyl)ethylamide; and
  - 10 5-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine 3-carboxylic acid 2-(N-piperidinyl)ethylamide;
- or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

Additional useful compounds of the present invention include:

- 5-(2-naphthyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide;
  - 15 2-(2-naphthyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide;
  - 2-(4-phenylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide; and
  - 2-(4-phenylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide;
- or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

Further useful compounds of the invention include:

- 20 5-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide;
  - 2-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide;
  - 2-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide
  - 2-(4-*i*-propylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide;
  - 5-(4-thiomethylphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide;
  - 25 2-(4-thiomethylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide;
  - 5-(4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide;
  - 2-(4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide;
  - 2-(4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide;
  - 5-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide; and
  - 30 2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide;
- or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

Further compounds that may be employed in this method of invention include:

- 2-(4-*n*-butylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide;
  - 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide;
  - 5 2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide;
  - 5-(4-ethoxyphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide;
  - 5-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide;
  - 5-(4-*n*-butylphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide;
  - 2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide;
  - 10 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide;
  - 2-(4-*n*-butylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide;
- or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

Useful aryl groups are C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl, especially C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl. Typical C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl groups include phenyl, naphthyl, phenanthryl, anthracyl, indenyl, azulenyl, biphenyl, biphenylenyl and fluorenyl groups.

Useful cycloalkyl groups are C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl. Typical cycloalkyl groups include cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl.

Useful halo or halogen groups include fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine.

Useful alkyl groups include straight-chained and branched C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl groups, more preferably C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl groups. Typical C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl groups include methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, *sec*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, 3-pentyl, hexyl and octyl groups. Also contemplated is a trimethylene group substituted on two adjoining positions on the benzene ring of the compounds of the invention.

Useful alkenyl groups are C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl groups, preferably C<sub>2-4</sub> alkenyl. Typical C<sub>2-4</sub> alkenyl groups include ethenyl, propenyl, isopropenyl, butenyl, and *sec*-butenyl.

Useful alkynyl groups are C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl groups, preferably C<sub>2-4</sub> alkynyl. Typical C<sub>2-4</sub> alkynyl groups include ethynyl, propynyl, butynyl, and 2-butynyl groups.

Useful arylalkyl groups include any of the above-mentioned C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl groups substituted by any of the above-mentioned C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl groups. Useful values include benzyl, phenethyl and naphthylmethyl.

Useful arylalkenyl groups include any of the above-mentioned C<sub>2-4</sub> alkenyl groups substituted by any of the above-mentioned C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl groups.

Useful arylalkynyl groups include any of the above-mentioned C<sub>2-4</sub> alkynyl groups substituted by any of the above-mentioned C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl groups. Useful values include phenylethynyl and phenylpropynyl.

Useful cycloalkylalkyl groups include any of the above-mentioned C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl groups substituted by any of the above-mentioned cycloalkyl groups.

Useful haloalkyl groups include C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl groups substituted by one or more fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atoms, e.g. fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, 1,1-difluoroethyl and trichloromethyl groups.

Useful hydroxyalkyl groups include C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl groups substituted by hydroxy, e.g. hydroxymethyl, hydroxyethyl, hydroxypropyl and hydroxybutyl groups.

Useful alkoxy groups include oxygen substituted by one of the C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl groups mentioned above.

Useful alkylthio groups include sulfur substituted by one of the C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl groups mentioned above.

Useful acylamino groups are any acyl group, particularly C<sub>2-6</sub> alkanoyl or C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl(C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkanoyl attached to an amino nitrogen, e.g. acetamido, propionamido, butanoylamido, pentanoylamido, hexanoylamido, and benzoyl.

Useful acyloxy groups are any C<sub>1-6</sub> acyl (alkanoyl) attached to an oxy (-O-) group, e.g. acetoxy, propionyloxy, butanoyloxy, pentanoyloxy, hexanoyloxy and the like.

The term heterocyclic is used herein to mean saturated or wholly or partially unsaturated 3-7 membered monocyclic, or 7-10 membered bicyclic ring system, which consists of carbon atoms and from one to four heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of O, N, and S, wherein the nitrogen and sulfur heteroatoms can be optionally oxidized, the nitrogen can be optionally quaternized, and including any bicyclic group in which any of the above-defined heterocyclic rings is fused to a benzene ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring can be substituted on carbon or on a nitrogen atom if the resulting compound is stable. Examples include, but are not limited to, pyrrolidine, piperidine, piperazine, morpholine, imidazoline, pyrazolidine, benzodiazepines, and the like.

Useful heterocycloalkyl groups include any of the above-mentioned C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl groups substituted by any of the above-mentioned heterocyclic groups.

Useful heterocycloalkylamino groups include any of the above-mentioned heterocycloalkyl groups attached to an amino nitrogen, such as N-piperidinyloethylamino, especially, 2-(N-piperidinyl)ethylamino.

Useful alkylamino and dialkylamino groups are —NHR<sub>12</sub> and —NR<sub>12</sub>R<sub>13</sub>, wherein R<sub>12</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl groups.

Useful dialkylaminoalkyl groups include any of the above-mentioned C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl groups substituted by any of the above-mentioned dialkylamino groups.

Useful dialkylaminoalkylamino groups include any of the above-mentioned dialkylaminoalkyl groups attached to an amino nitrogen, such as dimethylaminoethylamino.

Aminocarbonyl group is —C(O)NH<sub>2</sub>.

Useful alkylaminocarbonyl groups are carbonyl groups substituted by —NHR<sub>12</sub> and —NR<sub>12</sub>R<sub>13</sub>, wherein R<sub>12</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl groups.

Useful alkylthiol groups include any of the above-mentioned C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl groups substituted by a —SH group.

A carboxy group is —COOH.

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An azido group is  $-N_3$ .

An ureido group is  $-NH-C(O)-NH_2$ .

An amino group is  $-NH_2$ .

An amide group is an organic radical having  $-NHC(O)-$  as a  
5 functional group.

Optional substituents on  $R_1-R_{11}$  include any one of halo, halo( $C_{1-6}$ )  
alkyl, aryl, heterocycle, cycloalkyl,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkenyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkynyl,  
aryl( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, aryl( $C_{2-6}$ )alkenyl, aryl( $C_{2-6}$ )alkynyl, cycloalkyl( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  
heterocyclo( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, amino( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  
10 carboxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, alkoxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, nitro, amino, ureido, cyano, acylamino,  
hydroxy, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, aminocarbonyl, and  $C_{1-6}$   
alkylthiol groups mentioned above. Preferred optional substituents include:  
halo, halo( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, amino( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, hydroxy, nitro,  
 $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, alkoxy and amino.

15 The invention disclosed herein is also meant to encompass prodrugs of  
the disclosed compounds. Prodrugs are considered to be any covalently  
bonded carriers which release the active parent drug *in vivo*.

The invention disclosed herein is also meant to encompass the *in vivo*  
metabolic products of the disclosed compounds. Such products may result for  
20 example from the oxidation, reduction, hydrolysis, amidation, esterification  
and the like of the administered compound, primarily due to enzymatic  
processes. Accordingly, the invention includes compounds produced by a  
process comprising contacting a compound of this invention with a mammal  
for a period of time sufficient to yield a metabolic product thereof. Such  
25 products typically are identified by preparing a radiolabelled compound of the  
invention, administering it parenterally in a detectable dose to an animal such  
as rat, mouse, guinea pig, monkey, or to man, allowing sufficient time for  
metabolism to occur and isolating its conversion products from the urine,  
blood or other biological samples.

30 The invention disclosed herein is also meant to encompass the  
disclosed compounds being isotopically-labelled by having one or more atoms

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replaced by an atom having a different atomic mass or mass number. Examples of isotopes that can be incorporated into the disclosed compounds include isotopes of hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorous, fluorine and chlorine, such as  $^2\text{H}$ ,  $^3\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{14}\text{C}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$ ,  $^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $^{17}\text{O}$ ,  $^{31}\text{P}$ ,  $^{32}\text{P}$ ,  $^{35}\text{S}$ ,  $^{18}\text{F}$ , and  $^{36}\text{Cl}$ ,  
5 respectively.

Some of the compounds disclosed herein may contain one or more asymmetric centers and may thus give rise to enantiomers, diastereomers, and other stereoisomeric forms. The present invention is also meant to encompass all such possible forms, as well as their racemic and resolved forms and  
10 mixtures thereof. The individual enantiomers may be separated according to methods that are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. When the compounds described herein contain olefinic double bonds or other centers of geometric asymmetry, and unless specified otherwise, it is intended to include both E and Z geometric isomers. All tautomers are intended to be  
15 encompassed by the present invention as well.

As used herein, the term "stereoisomers" is a general term for all isomers of individual molecules that differ only in the orientation of their atoms in space. It includes enantiomers and isomers of compounds with more than one chiral center that are not mirror images of one another  
20 (diastereomers).

The term "chiral center" refers to a carbon atom to which four different groups are attached.

The term "enantiomer" or "enantiomeric" refers to a molecule that is nonsuperimposable on its mirror image and hence optically active wherein  
25 the enantiomer rotates the plane of polarized light in one direction and its mirror image rotates the plane of polarized light in the opposite direction.

The term "racemic" refers to a mixture of equal parts of enantiomers and which is optically inactive.

The term "resolution" refers to the separation or concentration or  
30 depletion of one of the two enantiomeric forms of a molecule.

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The invention disclosed is also meant to encompass all pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof of the disclosed compounds. Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts include inorganic and organic acid addition salts. The pharmaceutically acceptable salts include, but  
5 are not limited to, metal salts such as sodium salt, potassium salt, cesium salt and the like; alkaline earth metals such as calcium salt, magnesium salt and the like; organic amine salts such as triethylamine salt, pyridine salt, picoline salt, ethanolamine salt, triethanolamine salt, dicyclohexylamine salt, N,N'-dibenzylethylenediamine salt and the like; inorganic acid salts such as  
10 hydrochloride, hydrobromide, phosphate, sulphate and the like; organic acid salts such as citrate, lactate, tartrate, maleate, fumarate, mandelate, acetate, dichloroacetate, trifluoroacetate, oxalate, formate and the like; sulfonates such as methanesulfonate, benzenesulfonate, p-toluenesulfonate and the like; and amino acid salts such as arginate, asparagine, glutamate and the like.

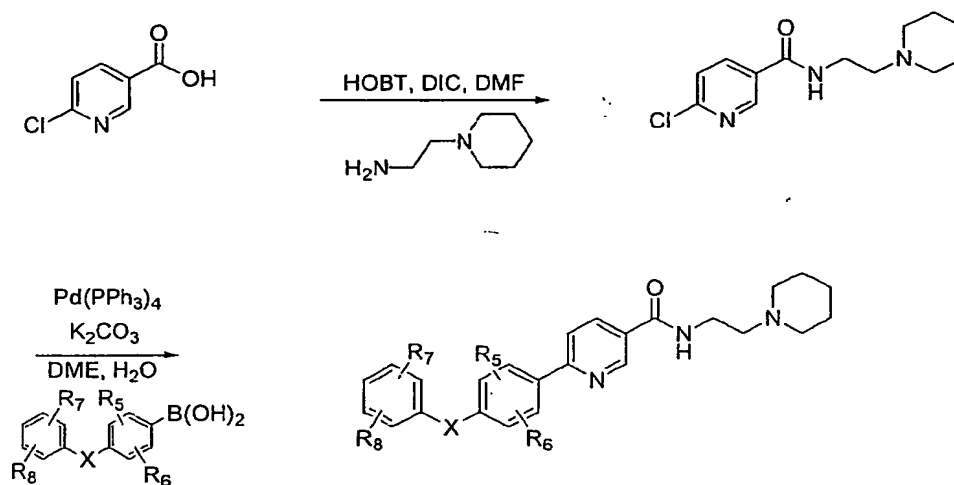
15 Examples of prodrugs include esters or amides of Formulae I-VI with any of R<sub>2</sub>-R<sub>8</sub> as hydroxyalkyl or aminoalkyl, and these may be prepared by reacting such compounds with anhydrides such as succinic anhydride.

The invention is also directed to a method for treating disorders responsive to the blockade of sodium channels in animals suffering thereof.  
20 Particular preferred embodiments of the aryl substituted pyridyl compounds for use in method of this invention are represented by previously defined Formulae I-VI.

The compounds of this invention may be prepared using methods known to those skilled in the art. For example, 2,5-disubstituted pyridine  
25 amides can be prepared according to Scheme 1 as follows:

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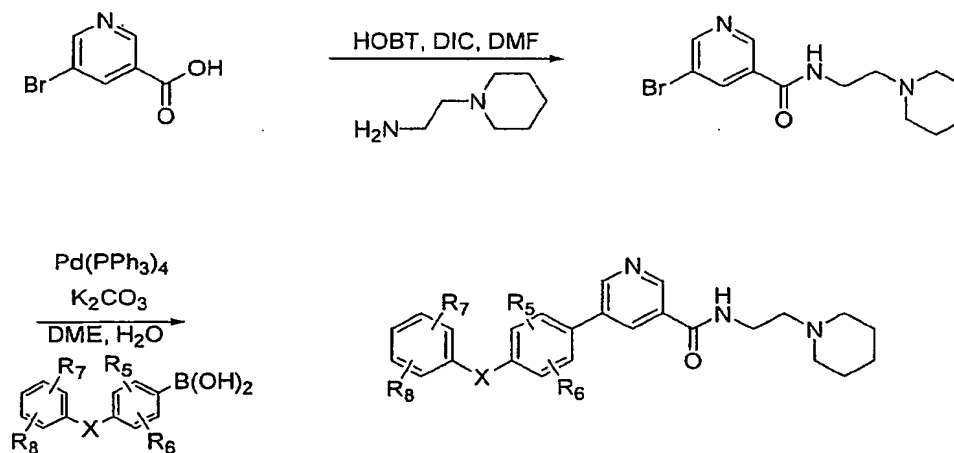
## SCHEME I



Further, 3,5-disubstituted pyridine amides can be prepared according to Scheme 2 as follows:

5

## SCHEME 2

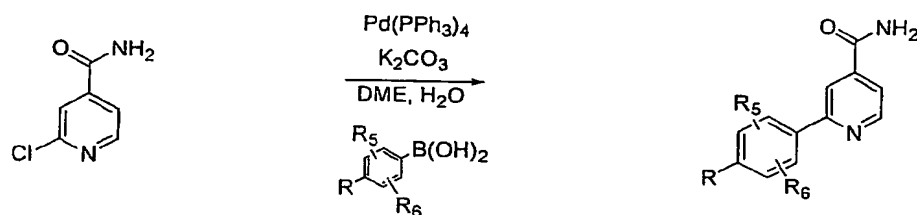


2,4-Disubstituted pyridine amides can be prepared, for example, as follows in Scheme 3:



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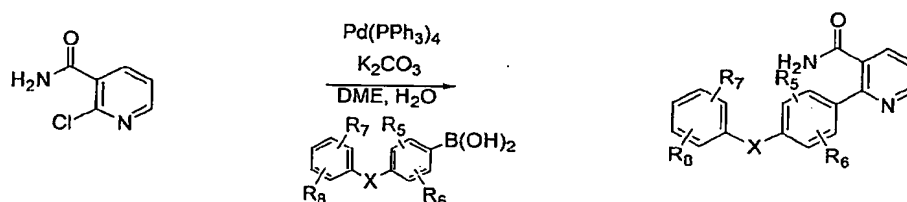
SCHEME 3



wherein R is, e.g., OPh, *tert*-butyl, Ph, *n*-butyl, *i*-Pr, OCF<sub>3</sub>, OMe or OEt.

2,3-Distributed pyridine amides can be prepared, for example, as  
5 shown in Scheme 4.

SCHEME 4



The invention is also directed to <sup>3</sup>H and <sup>14</sup>C radiolabeled compounds of  
Formula I and their use as radioligands for their binding site on the sodium  
10 channel. For example, one use of the labeled compounds of the invention is  
the characterization of specific receptor binding. Another use of the labeled  
compounds of the invention is an alternative to animal testing for the  
evaluation of structure-activity relationships. The receptor assay is performed  
at a fixed concentration of a labeled compound of Formula I and at increasing  
15 concentrations of a test compound in a competition assay.

Tritiated compounds of Formula I can be prepared by introducing  
tritium into the compound of Formula I by, for example, catalytic  
dehalogenation with tritium. This method includes reacting a suitably halogen-  
substituted precursor of a compound of Formula I with tritium gas in the  
20 presence of a suitable catalyst, for example Pd/C, in the presence or absence of  
a base. Other suitable methods for preparing tritiated compounds can be found  
in Filer, *Isotopes in the Physical and Biomedical Sciences, Vol. 1, Labeled*

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*Compounds (Part A)*, Chapter 6.  $^{14}\text{C}$ -labeled compounds can be prepared by employing starting materials having a  $^{14}\text{C}$  carbon.

The compounds of the present invention were assessed by electrophysiological assays in dissociated hippocampal neurons for sodium channel blocker activity. These compounds also could be assayed for binding to the neuronal voltage-dependent sodium channel using rat forebrain membranes and [ $^3\text{H}$ ]BTX-B.

Sodium channels are large transmembrane proteins that are expressed in various tissues. They are voltage sensitive channels and are responsible for the rapid increase of  $\text{Na}^+$  permeability in response to depolarization associated with the action potential in many excitable cells including muscle, nerve and cardiac cells.

One aspect of the present invention is the discovery of the mechanism of action of the compounds herein described as specific  $\text{Na}^+$  channel blockers. Based upon the discovery of this mechanism, these compounds are contemplated to be useful in treating or preventing neuronal loss due to focal or global ischemia, and in treating or preventing neurodegenerative disorders including ALS, anxiety, and epilepsy. They are also expected to be effective in treating, preventing or ameliorating neuropathic pain, surgical pain, chronic pain and tinnitus. The compounds are also expected to be useful as antiarrhythmics, anesthetics and antimanic depressants.

The present invention is directed to compounds of Formulae I-VI that are blockers of voltage-sensitive sodium channels. According to the present invention, those compounds having preferred sodium channel blocking properties exhibit an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  of about 100  $\mu\text{M}$  or less in the electrophysiological assay described herein. Preferably, the compounds of the present invention exhibit an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  of 10  $\mu\text{M}$  or less. Most preferably, the compounds of the present invention exhibit an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  of about 1.0  $\mu\text{M}$  or less. Substituted heteroaryl compounds of the present invention may be tested for their  $\text{Na}^+$  channel blocking activity by the following electrophysiological and binding assays.

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## Electrophysiological Assay:

Electrophysiological Assay was used to measure potencies of compounds of the present invention rBIIa/beta 1 sodium channels expressed in  
5 *Xenopus* oocytes.

*Preparation of cRNA encoding cloned rat brain type IIa (rBIIa) and beta 1 ( $\beta 1$ ):* cDNA clones encoding the rat brain beta 1 subunit were cloned in house using standard methods, and mRNA were prepared by standard methods. mRNA encoding rBIIa was provided by Dr. A. Golden (UC Irvine).  
10 The mRNAs were diluted and stored at -80°C in 1  $\mu$ L aliquots until injection.

*Preparation of oocytes:* Mature female *Xenopus laevis* were anaesthetized (20-40 min) using 0.15 % 3-aminobenzoic acid ethyl ester (MS-222) following established procedures (Woodward, R. M., *et al.*, *Mol. Pharmacol.* 41:89-103 (1992)).

15 Two to six ovarian lobes were surgically removed. Oocytes at developmental stages V-VI were dissected from the ovary, oocytes were still surrounded by enveloping ovarian tissues. Oocytes were defolliculated on the day of surgery by treatment with collagenase (0.5 mg/mL Sigma Type I, or Boehringer Mannheim Type A, for 0.5-1 hr). Treated oocytes were vortexed  
20 to dislodge epithelia, washed repeatedly and stored in Barth's medium containing 88 mM NaCl, 1 mM KCl, 0.41 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.33 mM Ca(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, 0.82 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 2.4 mM NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 5 mM HEPES, pH 7.4 adjusted with 0.1 mg/mL gentamycin sulphate.

*Micro-injection of oocytes:* Defolliculated oocytes were micro-  
25 injected using a Nanoject injection system (Drummond Scientific Co., Broomall, PA). Injection pipettes were beveled to minimize clogging. Tip diameter of injection pipettes was 15-35  $\mu$ m. Oocytes were microinjected with approximately 50 nL 1:10 ratio mixtures of cRNAs for rBIIa and beta 1 respectively.

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*Electrophysiology:* Membrane current responses were recorded in frog Ringer solution containing 115 mM NaCl, 2 mM KCl, 1.8 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 5 mM HEPES, pH 7.4. Electrical recordings were made using a conventional two-electrode voltage clamp (Dagan TEV-200) over periods ranging between 1-7 days following injection. The recording chamber was a simple gravity fed flow-through chamber (volume 100-500 mL depending on adjustment of aspirator). Oocytes were placed in the recording chamber, impaled with electrodes and continuously perfused (5-15 mL min<sup>-1</sup>) with frog Ringer's solution. The tested compounds were applied by bath perfusion.

*Voltage protocols for evoking sodium channel currents:* The standard holding potential for whole oocyte clamp was -120mV. Standard current-voltage relationships were elicited by 40ms depolarizing steps starting from -60mV to +50mV in 10mV increments. Peak currents were measured as the maximum negative current after depolarizing voltage steps. The voltage from maximum current response was noted and used for the next voltage protocol.

The purpose was to find compounds that are state dependent modifiers of neuronal sodium channels. Preferably, the compounds have a low affinity for the rested/closed state of the channel, but a high affinity for the inactivated state. The following voltage protocol was used to measure a compounds affinity for the inactivated state. Oocytes were held at a holding potential of -120mV. At this membrane voltage, nearly all of the channels would be in the closed state. Then a 4 second depolarization was made to the voltage where the maximum current was elicited. At the end of this depolarization, nearly all the channels would be in the inactivated state. A 10ms hyperpolarizing step was then made in order to remove some channels from the inactivated state. A final depolarizing test pulse was used to assay the sodium current after this prolonged depolarization (see analysis below). Sodium currents were measured at this test pulse before and after the application of the tested compound. Data was acquired using pClamp 8.0 software and analyzed with clampfit software (Axon instruments).

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*Data analysis:* Apparent inhibition constants ( $K_i$  values) for antagonists were determined from single point inhibition data using the following equation (a generalized form of the Cheng-Prusoff equation) (Leff, P. and I. G. Dougall, *TiPS* 14:110-112 (1993)).

5

$$K_i = (FR/1-FR)*[drug] \quad \text{Eq.1}$$

Where FR is the fractional response and is defined as sodium current elicited from the final depolarizing test pulse prior to application of the drug divided by the sodium current measured in the presence of the drug. [drug] is the concentration of the drug used.

*Drugs:* Drugs were initially made up at concentrations of 2-10 mM in DMSO. Dilutions were then made to generate a series of DMSO stocks over the range 0.3  $\mu$ M to 10 mM - depending upon the potency of the compound. Working solutions were made by 1000-3000 fold dilution of stocks into Ringer. At these dilutions DMSO alone had little or no measurable effects on membrane current responses. DMSO stocks of drugs were stored in the dark at 4 °C. Ringer solutions of drugs were made up fresh each day of use.

#### 20 *In vitro* Binding Assay:

The ability of compounds of the present invention to modulate either site 1 or site 2 of the  $\text{Na}^+$  channel was determined following the procedures fully described in Yasushi, *J. Biol. Chem.* 261:6149-6152 (1986) and Creveling, *Mol. Pharmacol.* 23:350-358 (1983), respectively. Rat forebrain membranes were used as sources of  $\text{Na}^+$  channel proteins. The binding assays were conducted in 130  $\mu$ M choline chloride at 37°C for 60-minute incubation with [ $^3\text{H}$ ] saxitoxin and [ $^3\text{H}$ ] batrachotoxin as radioligands for site 1 and site 2, respectively.

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*In vivo* Pharmacology:

The compounds of the present invention may be tested for *in vivo* anticonvulsant activity after i.v., p.o. or i.p. injection using a number of anticonvulsant tests in mice, including the maximum electroshock seizure test (MES). Maximum electroshock seizures were induced in male NSA mice weighing between 15-20 g and male Sprague-Dawley rats weighing between 200-225 g by application of current (50 mA, 60 pulses/sec, 0.8 msec pulse width, 1 sec duration, D.C., mice; 99 mA, 125 pulses/sec, 0.8 msec pulse width, 2 sec duration, D.C., rats) using a Ugo Basile ECT device (Model 7801). Mice were restrained by gripping the loose skin on their dorsal surface and saline-coated corneal electrodes were held lightly against the two corneae. Rats were allowed free movement on the bench top and ear-clip electrodes were used. Current was applied and animals were observed for a period of up to 30 seconds for the occurrence of a tonic hindlimb extensor response. A tonic seizure was defined as a hindlimb extension in excess of 90 degrees from the plane of the body. Results were treated in a quantal manner.

The compounds may be tested for their antinociceptive activity in the formalin model as described in Hunskaar, S., O. B. Fasmer, and K. Hole, *J. Neurosci. Methods* 14: 69-76 (1985). Male Swiss Webster NIH mice (20-30 g; Harlan, San Diego, CA) were used in all experiments. Food was withdrawn on the day of experiment. Mice were placed in Plexiglass jars for at least 1 hour to accommodate to the environment. Following the accommodation period mice were weighed and given either the compound of interest administered i.p. or p.o., or the appropriate volume of vehicle (10 % Tween-80). Fifteen minutes after the i.p. dosing, and 30 minutes after the p.o. dosing mice were injected with formalin (20  $\mu$ L of 5% formaldehyde solution in saline) into the dorsal surface of the right hind paw. Mice were transferred to the Plexiglass jars and monitored for the amount of time spent licking or biting the injected paw. Periods of licking and biting were recorded in 5 minute intervals for 1 hour after the formalin injection. All experiments were done in

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a blinded manner during the light cycle. The early phase of the formalin response was measured as licking / biting between 0-5 minutes, and the late phase was measured from 15-50 minutes. Differences between vehicle and drug treated groups were analyzed by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). A P value  $\leq 0.05$  was considered significant. Having activity in blocking the acute and second phase of formalin-induced paw-licking activity, the compounds are considered to be efficacious for acute and chronic pain.

The compounds may be tested for their potential for the treatment of chronic pain (antiallodynic and antihyperalgesic activities) in the Chung model of peripheral neuropathy. Male Sprague-Dawley rats weighing between 200-225 g were anesthetized with halothane (1-3 % in a mixture of 70 % air and 30 % oxygen) and their body temperature controlled during anesthesia through use of a homeothermic blanket. A 2-cm dorsal midline incision was then made at the L5 and L6 level and the para-vertebral muscle groups retracted bilaterally. L5 and L6 spinal nerves were then be exposed, isolated, and tightly ligated with 6-0 silk suture. A sham operation was performed exposing the contralateral L5 and L6 spinal nerves as a negative control.

*Tactile Allodynia:* Rats were transferred to an elevated testing cage with a wire mesh floor and allowed to acclimate for five to ten minutes. A series of Semmes-Weinstein monofilaments were applied to the plantar surface of the hindpaw to determine the animal's withdrawal threshold. The first filament used possessed a buckling weight of 9.1 gms (.96 log value) and was applied up to five times to see if it elicited a withdrawal response. If the animal had a withdrawal response then the next lightest filament in the series would be applied up to five times to determine if it could elicit a response. This procedure was repeated with subsequent lesser filaments until there was no response and the lightest filament that elicited a response was recorded. If the animal did not have a withdrawal response from the initial 9.1 gms filament then subsequent filaments of increased weight were applied until a filament elicited a response and this filament was then recorded. For each animal, three measurements were made at every time point to produce an

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average withdrawal threshold determination. Tests were performed prior to and at 1, 2, 4 and 24 hours post drug administration. Tactile allodynia and mechanical hyperalgesia tests were conducted concurrently.

*Mechanical Hyperalgesia:* Rats were transferred to an elevated testing cage with a wire mesh floor and allowed to acclimate for five to ten minutes. A slightly blunted needle was touched to the plantar surface of the hindpaw causing a dimpling of the skin without penetrating the skin. Administration of the needle to control paws typically produced a quick flinching reaction, too short to be timed with a stopwatch and arbitrarily given a withdrawal time of 0.5 second. The operated side paw of neuropathic animals exhibited an exaggerated withdrawal response to the blunted needle. A maximum withdrawal time of ten seconds was used as a cutoff time. Withdrawal times for both paws of the animals were measured three times at each time point with a five-minute recovery period between applications. The three measures were used to generate an average withdrawal time for each time point. Tactile allodynia and mechanical hyperalgesia tests were conducted concurrently.

The compounds may be tested for their neuroprotective activity after focal and global ischemia produced in rats or gerbils according to the procedures described in Buchan *et al.* (*Stroke*, Suppl. 148-152 (1993)) and Sheardown *et al.* (*Eur. J. Pharmacol.* 236:347-353 (1993)) and Graham *et al.* (*J. Pharmacol. Exp. Therap.* 276:1-4 (1996)).

The compounds may be tested for their neuroprotective activity after traumatic spinal cord injury according to the procedures described in Wrathall *et al.* (*Exp. Neurology* 137:119-126 (1996)) and Iwasaki *et al.* (*J. Neuro Sci.* 134:21-25 (1995)).

Compositions within the scope of this invention include all compositions wherein the compounds of the present invention are contained in an amount that is effective to achieve its intended purpose. While individual needs vary, determination of optimal ranges of effective amounts of each component is within the skill of the art. Typically, the compounds may be administered to mammals, e.g. humans, orally at a dose of 0.0025 to 50



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mg/kg, or an equivalent amount of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, per day of the body weight of the mammal being treated for epilepsy, neurodegenerative diseases, anesthetic, arrhythmia, manic depression, and pain. For intramuscular injection, the dose is generally about one-half of the  
5 oral dose.

In the method of treatment or prevention of neuronal loss in global and focal ischemia, brain and spinal cord trauma, hypoxia, hypoglycemia, status epilepsy and surgery, the compound can be administered by intravenous injection at a dose of about 0.025 to about 10 mg/kg.

10 The unit oral dose may comprise from about 0.01 to about 50 mg, preferably about 0.1 to about 10 mg of the compound. The unit dose may be administered one or more times daily as one or more tablets each containing from about 0.1 to about 10, conveniently about 0.25 to 50 mg of the compound or its solvates.

15 In addition to administering the compound as a raw chemical, the compounds of the invention may be administered as part of a pharmaceutical preparation containing suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers comprising excipients and auxiliaries which facilitate processing of the compounds into preparations which can be used pharmaceutically. Preferably,  
20 the preparations, particularly those preparations which can be administered orally and which can be used for the preferred type of administration, such as tablets, dragees, and capsules, and also preparations which can be administered rectally, such as suppositories, as well as suitable solutions for administration by injection or orally, contain from about 0.01 to 99 percent,  
25 preferably from about 0.25 to 75 percent of active compound(s), together with the excipient.

Also included within the scope of the present invention are the non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of the present invention. Acid addition salts are formed by mixing a solution of the  
30 particular heteroaryl compound of the present invention with a solution of a pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic acid such as hydrochloric acid, fumaric

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acid, maleic acid, succinic acid, acetic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, carbonic acid, phosphoric acid, oxalic acid, dichloroacetic acid, and the like. Basic salts are formed by mixing a solution of the heteroaryl compound of the present invention with a solution of a pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic  
5 base such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, choline hydroxide, sodium carbonate and the like.

The pharmaceutical compositions of the invention may be administered to any animal that may experience the beneficial effects of the compounds of the invention. Foremost among such animals are mammals,  
10 e.g., humans, although the invention is not intended to be so limited.

The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may be administered by any means that achieve their intended purpose. For example, administration may be by parenteral, subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, transdermal, or buccal routes. Alternatively, or  
15 concurrently, administration may be by the oral route. The dosage administered will be dependent upon the age, health, and weight of the recipient, kind of concurrent treatment, if any, frequency of treatment, and the nature of the effect desired.

The pharmaceutical preparations of the present invention are  
20 manufactured in a manner which is itself known, for example, by means of conventional mixing, granulating, dragee-making, dissolving, or lyophilizing processes. Thus, pharmaceutical preparations for oral use can be obtained by combining the active compounds with solid excipients, optionally grinding the resulting mixture and processing the mixture of granules, after adding suitable  
25 auxiliaries, if desired or necessary, to obtain tablets or dragee cores.

Suitable excipients are, in particular, fillers such as saccharides, for example lactose or sucrose, mannitol or sorbitol, cellulose preparations and/or calcium phosphates, for example tricalcium phosphate or calcium hydrogen phosphate, as well as binders such as starch paste, using, for example, maize  
30 starch, wheat starch, rice starch, potato starch, gelatin, tragacanth, methyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose,

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and/or polyvinyl pyrrolidone. If desired, disintegrating agents may be added such as the above-mentioned starches and also carboxymethyl-starch, cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone, agar, or alginic acid or a salt thereof, such as sodium alginate. Auxiliaries are, above all, flow-regulating agents and lubricants, for example, silica, talc, stearic acid or salts thereof, such as magnesium stearate or calcium stearate, and/or polyethylene glycol. Dragee cores are provided with suitable coatings that, if desired, are resistant to gastric juices. For this purpose, concentrated saccharide solutions may be used, which may optionally contain gum arabic, talc, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol and/or titanium dioxide, lacquer solutions and suitable organic solvents or solvent mixtures. In order to produce coatings resistant to gastric juices, solutions of suitable cellulose preparations such as acetylcellulose phthalate or hydroxypropymethyl-cellulose phthalate, are used. Dye stuffs or pigments may be added to the tablets or dragee coatings, for example, for identification or in order to characterize combinations of active compound doses.

Other pharmaceutical preparations which can be used orally include push-fit capsules made of gelatin, as well as soft, sealed capsules made of gelatin and a plasticizer such as glycerol or sorbitol. The push-fit capsules can contain the active compounds in the form of granules which may be mixed with fillers such as lactose, binders such as starches, and/or lubricants such as talc or magnesium stearate and, optionally, stabilizers. In soft capsules, the active compounds are preferably dissolved or suspended in suitable liquids, such as fatty oils, or liquid paraffin. In addition, stabilizers may be added.

Possible pharmaceutical preparations, which can be used rectally, include, for example, suppositories, which consist of a combination of one or more of the active compounds with a suppository base. Suitable suppository bases are, for example, natural or synthetic triglycerides, or paraffin hydrocarbons. In addition, it is also possible to use gelatin rectal capsules which consist of a combination of the active compounds with a base. Possible

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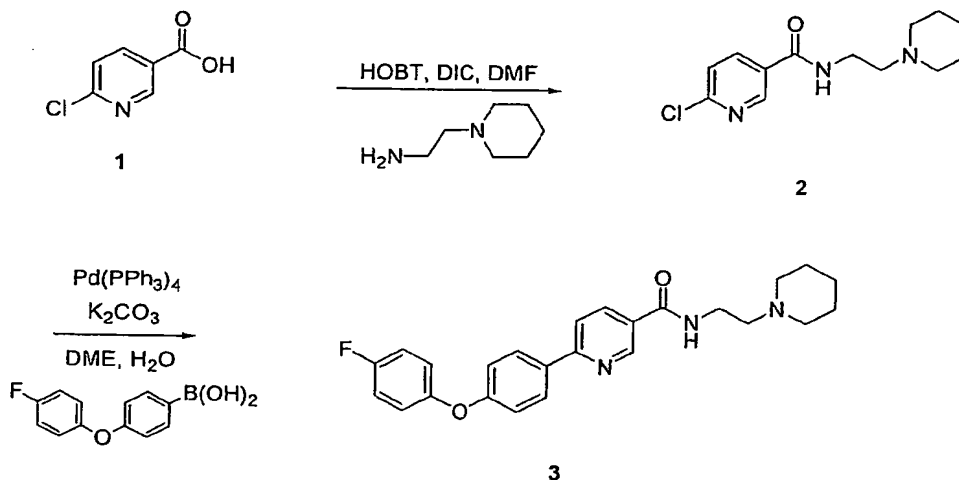
base materials include, for example, liquid triglycerides, polyethylene glycols, or paraffin hydrocarbons.

Suitable formulations for parenteral administration include aqueous solutions of the active compounds in water-soluble form, for example, water-soluble salts and alkaline solutions. In addition, suspensions of the active compounds as appropriate oily injection suspensions may be administered. Suitable lipophilic solvents or vehicles include fatty oils, for example, sesame oil, or synthetic fatty acid esters, for example, ethyl oleate or triglycerides or polyethylene glycol-400 (the compounds are soluble in PEG-400). Aqueous injection suspensions may contain substances which increase the viscosity of the suspension, and include, for example, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, sorbitol, and/or dextran. Optionally, the suspension may also contain stabilizers.

The following examples are illustrative, but not limiting, of the method and compositions of the present invention. Other suitable modifications and adaptations of the variety of conditions and parameters normally encountered in clinical therapy and which are obvious to those skilled in the art are within the spirit and scope of the invention.

## EXAMPLE 1

## 2-[4-(4-Fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine 5-carboxylic acid 2-(N-piperidiny)ethylamide (3)



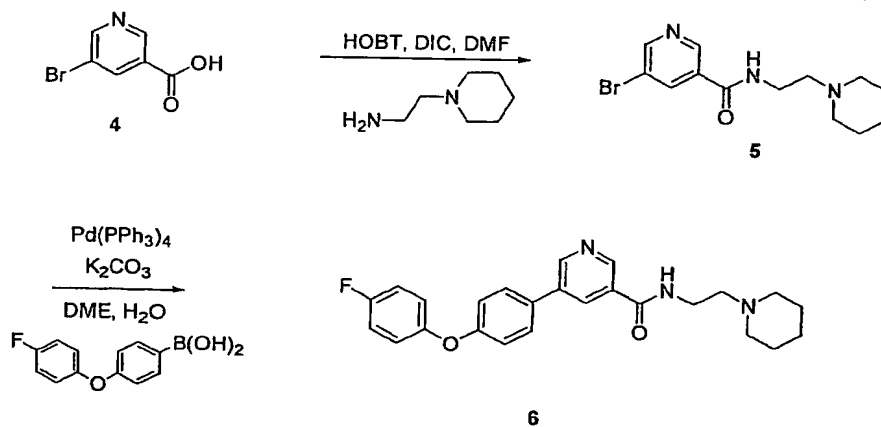
5 a) 2-Chloropyridine-5-carboxylic acid 2-(N-piperidiny)ethylamide (2): To a solution of 6-chloronicotinic acid (1) (3.9 g, 24.8 mmol) and 1-(2-aminoethyl)piperidine (3.3 g, 26.0 mmol) in DMF was added N-hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBt) (3.4 g, 24.8 mmol) and 5-(3,4-dimethyl-1-triazenyl)-1H-imidazole-4-carboxamide (DIC) (3.1 g, 24.8 mmol). The  
 10 reaction mixture was allowed to stir 24 hours at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane, and water was then added. The phases were separated, and the aqueous phase was extracted twice with dichloromethane. The combined organic phases were dried over sodium sulfate. The solution was filtered and concentrated to give compound 2 as a  
 15 pale-yellow solid. Purification of compound 2 was then carried out by silica gel chromatography.

b) 2-[4-(4-Fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine 5-carboxylic acid 2-(N-piperidiny)ethylamide (3): To a solution of compound 2 (536 mg, 2.0 mmol) in 1,2-dimethoxyethane (6 mL) was added 4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl boronic acid (557 mg, 2.4 mmol), followed by water (2 mL) and potassium carbonate (746 mg, 5.4 mmol). Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (92 mg, 0.08 mmol) was added to  
 20

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this mixture and the reaction mixture was heated at 85 °C for 16 hours under an argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was allowed to return to ambient temperature, and the phases were separated. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with ethyl acetate, and the combined organic phases were dried over sodium sulfate. The solution was filtered, concentrated, and then filtered over a bed of florisil to give crude compound 3. Purification of compound 3 was then carried out by silica gel chromatography. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.27 (bs, 2H), 1.50-1.66 (m, 4H), 2.48 (bs, 4H), 2.61 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 3.58 (t, 2H, *J* = 5.8 Hz), 7.04-7.11 (m, 6H), 7.21 (bs, 1H), 7.78 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 8.03 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 8.22 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 9.04 (s, 1H).

The following compound was prepared similarly except that 5-bromonicotinic acid was used instead of 6-chloronicotinic acid in step a):

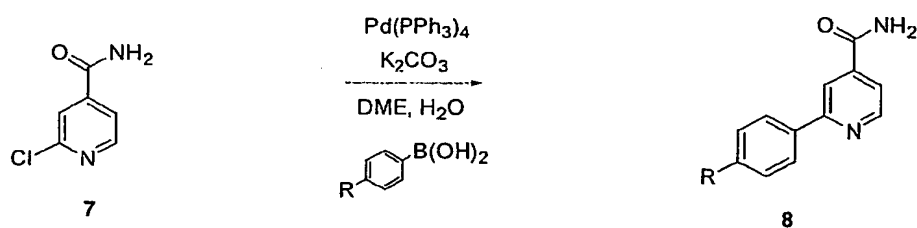


5-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine 3-carboxylic acid 2-(N-piperidinyl)ethylamide (6): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.48 (bs, 2H), 1.59-1.64 (m, 4H), 2.47 (bs, 4H), 2.60 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 3.58 (t, 2H, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 7.03-7.11 (m, 6H), 7.32 (bs, 1H), 7.59 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 8.35 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 8.92 (d, 2H, *J* = 2.1 Hz).

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## EXAMPLE 2

- 2-(4-Phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (**8a**)  
 2-(4-*tert*-Butylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (**8b**)  
 2-(4-Phenylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (**8c**)  
 2-(4-*n*-Butylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (**8d**)  
 2-(4-*i*-Propylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (**8e**)  
 2-(4-Trifluoromethoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (**8f**)  
 2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (**8g**)  
 2-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (**8h**)



- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| a R = OPh                | e R = <i>i</i> -Pr     |
| b R = <i>tert</i> -butyl | f R = OCF <sub>3</sub> |
| c R = Ph                 | g R = OMe              |
| d R = <i>n</i> -butyl    | h R = OEt              |

10

Compounds **8a-8h**: To a solution of compound **7** (536 mg, 2.0 mmol) in 1,2-dimethoxyethane (6 mL) was added the appropriate phenyl boronic acid (2.4 mmol), followed by water (2 mL) and potassium carbonate (746 mg, 5.4 mmol). Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (92 mg, 0.08 mmol) was added to this mixture, and the reaction mixture was heated at 85 °C for 16 hours under an argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was allowed to return to ambient temperature, and the phases were separated. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with ethyl acetate, and the combined organic phases were dried over sodium sulfate. The solution was filtered, concentrated, and then filtered over a bed of florisil to give crude compounds **8a-8h**. Purification of compounds **8a-8h** was then carried out by silica gel chromatography.

20

2-(4-Phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (**8a**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 7.03-7.15 (m, 5H), 7.33-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.62 (d, 1H, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 7.95 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 8.14 (s, 1H), 8.69 (d, 1H, *J* = 5.1 Hz).

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2-(4-*tert*-Butylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (8b):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  1.41 (s, 9H), 7.57 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.6$  Hz), 7.66 (dd, 1H,  $J = 1.6$ , 5.1 Hz), 7.98 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.6$  Hz), 8.20-8.21 (m, 1H), 8.77-8.78 (m, 1H).

2-(4-Phenylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (8c):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  7.35-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.64-7.75 (m, 5H), 8.08 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 8.25 (s, 1H), 8.75 (d, 1H,  $J = 5.2$  Hz).

2-(4-*n*-Butylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (8d):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  0.95 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.3$  Hz), 1.37-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.67 (m, 2H), 2.69 (t, 2H,  $J = 7.6$  Hz), 7.33 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 7.68 (dd, 1H,  $J = 1.6$ , 5.2 Hz), 7.91 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 8.20 (s, 1H), 8.72 (d, 1H,  $J = 5.1$  Hz).

2-(4-*i*-Propylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (8e):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  1.30 (d, 6H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 2.93-3.06 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 7.67-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.93 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 8.21 (s, 1H), 8.73 (d, 2H,  $J = 5.1$  Hz).

2-(4-Trifluoromethoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (8f):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  7.30 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.1$  Hz), 7.67 (d, 1H,  $J = 5.1$  Hz), 8.02 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.1$  Hz), 8.17 (s, 1H), 8.70 (d, 1H,  $J = 5.1$  Hz).

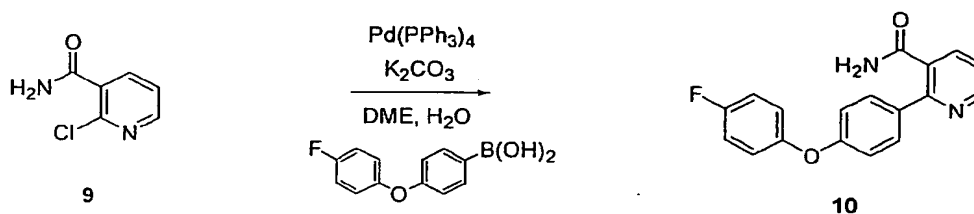
2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (8g):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  3.82 (s, 3H), 6.98 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 7.59 (dd, 1H,  $J = 1.6$ , 5.1 Hz), 7.89 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 8.11 (s, 1H), 8.63 (d, 1H,  $J = 5.1$  Hz).

2-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide (8h):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  1.46 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.0$  Hz), 4.13 (q, 2H,  $J = 7.0$  Hz), 7.03 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 7.63 (dd, 1H,  $J = 1.6$ , 5.1 Hz), 7.94 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 8.16 (s, 1H), 8.70 (d, 1H,  $J = 5.2$  Hz).



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## EXAMPLE 3

2-[4-(4-Fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine-3-carboxamide (**10**)

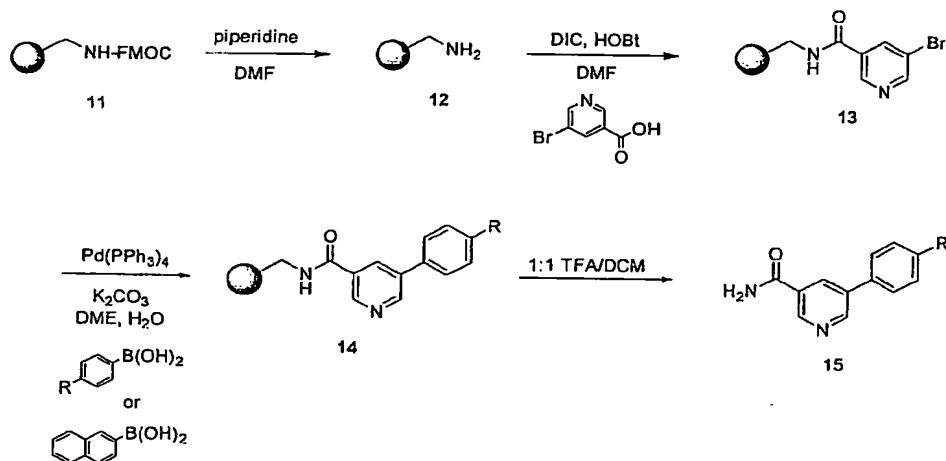
Compound **10** was prepared in a manner similar to the procedure described for compounds **8a-8h** in Example 2 using compound **9** and 4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl boronic acid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  7.02-7.42 (m, 5H), 7.65 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 7.97-8.02 (m, 2H), 8.45 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.9$  Hz), 8.68 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.9$  Hz).

2-[4-(4-Fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine-4-carboxamide was prepared similarly using compound **7** and 4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl boronic acid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  6.05 (bs, 1H), 6.31 (bs, 1H), 7.04-7.11 (m, 6H), 7.51 (d, 1H,  $J = 5.0$  Hz), 8.03 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 8.10 (s, 1H), 8.81 (d, 1H,  $J = 5.0$  Hz).

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## EXAMPLE 4

- 5-*(4-tert-Butylphenyl)*pyridine-3-carboxamide (**15a**)  
 5-*(4-Phenoxyphenyl)*pyridine-3-carboxamide (**15b**)  
 5-*(4-Ethoxyphenyl)*pyridine-3-carboxamide (**15c**)  
 5-*(4-Methoxyphenyl)*pyridine-3-carboxamide (**15d**)  
 5-*(4-*n*-Butylphenyl)*pyridine-3-carboxamide (**15e**)  
 5-*(2-Naphthyl)*pyridine-3-carboxamide (**15f**)  
 5-*(4-Thiomethylphenyl)*pyridine-3-carboxamide (**15g**)  
 5-*(4-Trifluoromethoxyphenyl)*pyridine-3-carboxamide (**15h**)  
 5-*(4-Trifluoromethylphenyl)*pyridine-3-carboxamide (**15i**)



- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| a R = <i>tert</i> -butyl | f naphthyl             |
| b R = OPh                | g R = SMe              |
| c R = OEt                | h R = OCF <sub>3</sub> |
| d R = OMe                | i R = CF <sub>3</sub>  |
| e R = <i>n</i> -butyl    |                        |

a) Compound 13: 20 % piperidine in DMF was added to polystyrene-Rink-amide resin having 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl (FMOC) protective group (PS-rink-NH-FMOC resin) (**11**) (4.45 g, 4.14 mmol) in a solid-phase reaction vessel, and the reaction was shaken for 1.5 hours at ambient temperature. The resin was washed (DMF twice, dichloromethane twice, DMF) and then treated again with 20 % piperidine in DMF. It was shaken for an additional hour, and the washing sequence was repeated. DMF was added to the resin, followed by N-hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBt) (3.4 g, 24.8 mmol), 5-bromonicotinic acid (5.0 g, 24.8 mmol), and a solution of 5-(3,4-dimethyl-1-triazenyl)-1*H*-imidazole-4-carboxamide (DIC) (3.1 g, 24.8

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mmol) in DMF. The mixture was shaken for 24 hours at ambient temperature and then drained. The resin was washed (DMF twice, dichloromethane twice, DMF) and dried. Compound 13 was split into individual reaction vessels.

b) Compounds 14a-14i: 1,2-Dimethoxyethane (2.5 mL) was added to the individual reaction vessels containing compound 13 (0.25 mmol), followed by the addition of the appropriate phenyl boronic acid (1.5 mmol). To this mixture was added water (1.0 mL), potassium carbonate (3.8 mmol), and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.043 mmol). The reactions were heated at 85 °C for 16 hours. After returning to ambient temperature, the reactions were drained, and the resin was washed (1:1 DME-water twice, water, 1:1 DME-water twice, DME twice, water twice, THF twice, dichloromethane twice) to yield compounds 14a-14i.

c) Compounds 15a-15i: Compounds 14a-14i were shaken in the presence of 1:1 TFA-dichloromethane for 1.5 hours. The reactions were filtered, the resins were washed with dichloromethane, and the solvent was then evaporated. Purification of compounds 15a-15i was carried out by first filtering over a bed of florisil followed by subjection to silica gel chromatography.

5-(4-*tert*-Butylphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide (15a): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 1.38 (s, 9H), 7.55 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 7.61 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 8.50 (s, 1H), 8.91 (bs, 1H), 8.89 (bs, 1H).

5-(4-Phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide (15b): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 7.06-7.42 (m, 7H), 7.67 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 8.49 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 8.91 (bs, 1H), 8.98 (bs, 1H).

5-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide (15c): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 1.46 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 4.11 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 7.04 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 7.62 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 8.56 (s, 1H), 8.92 (bs, 1H), 8.98 (bs, 1H).

5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide (15d): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 4.38 (s, 3H), 7.03 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.60 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 8.80 (s, 1H), 8.95 (bs, 2H).

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5-(4-*n*-Butylphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide (**15c**):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  1.03 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.3$  Hz), 1.44-1.49 (m, 2H), 1.70-1.76 (m, 2H), 2.76 (t, 2H,  $J = 7.6$  Hz), 7.40 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 7.66 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 8.59 (t, 1H,  $J = 2.0$  Hz), 8.98 (bs, 1H), 9.04 (bs, 1H).

5 5-(2-Naphthyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide (**15f**):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  7.56-8.04 (m, 6H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 8.73 (s, 1H), 9.06 (bs, 1H), 9.12 (bs, 1H).

10 5-(4-Thiomethylphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide (**15g**):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  2.49 (s, 3H), 7.33 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.5$  Hz), 7.55 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.5$  Hz), 8.43 (s, 1H), 8.86 (bs, 1H), 8.92 (bs, 1H).

5-(4-Trifluoromethoxyphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide (**15h**):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  7.34 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 7.69 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 8.46 (t, 1H,  $J = 2.1$  Hz), 8.87 (bs, 1H), 8.99 (bs, 1H).

15 5-(4-Trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide (**15i**):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  7.78-7.83 (m, 4H), 8.54 (t, 1H,  $J = 2.1$  Hz), 8.95 (bs, 1H), 9.07 (bs, 1H).

## EXAMPLE 5

2-(4-Trifluoromethoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (18a)

2-(4-Trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (18b)

2-(2-Naphthyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (18c)

5 2-(4-Phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (18d)

2-(4-*tert*-Butylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (18e)

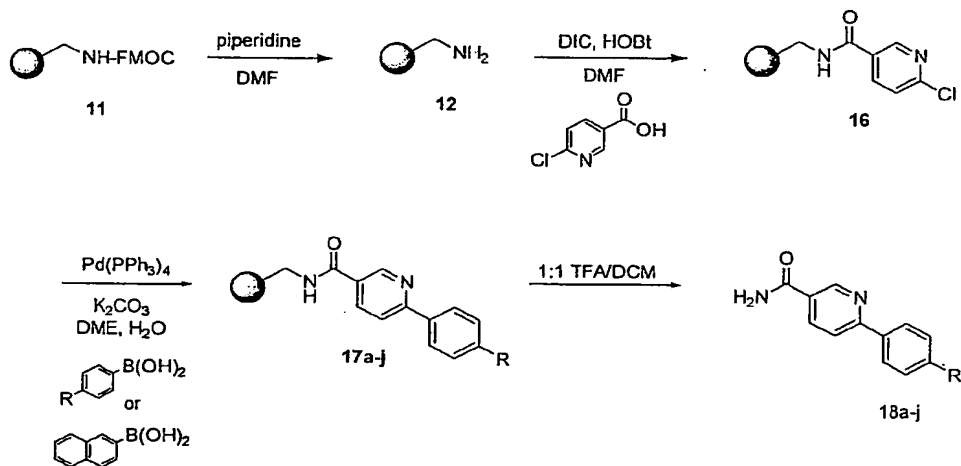
2-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (18f)

2-(4-Thiomethylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (18g)

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (18h)

10 2-(4-*n*-Butylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (18i)

2-(4-Phenylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (18j)



- a R = OCF<sub>3</sub>  
b R = CF<sub>3</sub>  
c naphthyl  
d R = OPh  
e R = *tert*-butyl  
f R = OEI
- g R = SMe  
h R = OMe  
i R = *n*-butyl  
j R = Ph

a) Compound 16: Compound 16 was prepared in a manner similar to the procedure described for compound 13 in Example 4 using 6-chloronicotinic acid and compound 12.

b) Compounds 17a-17j: Compounds 17a-17j were prepared in a manner similar to the procedure described for compound 14 in Example 4 using compound 16 and the appropriate phenyl boronic acid.

c) Compounds 18a-18j: Compounds 18a-18j were prepared in a manner similar to the procedure described for compound 15 in Example 4.

2-(4-Trifluoromethoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (**18a**):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  7.37 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 7.87 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 8.06 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 8.32 (dd, 1H,  $J = 2.3, 8.3$  Hz), 9.10-9.11 (m, 1H).

5        2-(4-Trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (**18b**):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  7.78 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 7.91 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 8.14 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 8.35 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 9.14 (s, 1H).

2-(2-Naphthyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (**18c**):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  7.54-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.98-8.09 (m, 5H), 8.35 (dd, 1H,  $J = 2.3, 8.3$  Hz), 8.48 (bs, 1H), 9.13 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.2$  Hz).

10        2-(4-Phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (**18d**):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  7.08-7.20 (m, 5H), 7.38-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.82 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 7.97 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 8.29 (dd, 1H,  $J = 2.3, 8.3$  Hz), 9.07 (m, 1H).

2-(4-*tert*-Butylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (**18e**):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  1.32 (s, 9H), 7.52 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 7.81 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 7.89 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 8.25 (dd, 1H,  $J = 2.3, 8.3$  Hz), 9.04 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.3$  Hz).

2-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (**18f**):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  1.46 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.0$  Hz), 4.13 (q, 2H,  $J = 7.0$  Hz), 7.03 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 7.79 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.93 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 8.26 (dd, 1H,  $J = 2.3, 8.4$  Hz), 9.02 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.2$  Hz).

2-(4-Thiomethylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (**18g**):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  2.55 (s, 3H), 7.39 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 7.87 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 7.93 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 8.31 (dd, 1H,  $J = 2.3, 8.3$  Hz), 9.09 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.3$  Hz).

25        2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (**18h**):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  3.90 (s, 3H), 7.05 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 7.81 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 7.95 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 8.27 (dd, 1H,  $J = 2.3, 8.3$  Hz), 9.05 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.3$  Hz).

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2-(4-*n*-Butylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (18i): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 0.95 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 1.36-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.61-1.70 (m, 2H), 2.69 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 7.33 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 7.83 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 7.89 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 8.29 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.3, 8.3 Hz), 9.06 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.3 Hz).

2-(4-Phenylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide (18j): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 7.37-7.69 (m, 5H), 7.70 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.95 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 8.09 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 8.34 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.3, 8.3 Hz), 9.13 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.1 Hz).

10

## EXAMPLE 6

Activity of 2-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine 5-carboxylic acid 2-(N-piperidinyl)ethylamide as Sodium Channel Blocker

2-[4-(4-Fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine 5-carboxylic acid 2-(N-piperidinyl)ethylamide was tested in the electrophysiological assay as described above. The result of 2-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine 5-carboxylic acid 2-(N-piperidinyl)ethylamide and other compounds are represented in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
**Evaluation of the Tested Compounds as Sodium Channel Blockers after**  
**an Electrophysiological in vitro Assay**

Compound name	RBPIA/ $\beta$ 1 K <sub>i</sub> / $\mu$ M
2-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine 5-carboxylic acid 2-(N-piperidinyl)ethylamide	0.95
5-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine 3-carboxylic acid 2-(N-piperidinyl)ethylamide	0.78
2-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine-3-carboxamide	13.57
2-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine-4-carboxamide	6.91
2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide	14.62
2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide	22.28
5-(4-phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide	5.43
5-(2-naphthyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide	35.12
2-(2-naphthyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide	28.06
2-(2-phenylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide	24.85
2-(2-phenylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide	40.68
5-(4- <i>tert</i> -butylphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide	18.55
2-(4- <i>tert</i> -butylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide	53.12
2-(4- <i>tert</i> -butylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide	32.32
2-(4- <i>i</i> -propylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide	39.17
5-(4-thiomethylphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide	28.97
2-(4-thiomethylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide	35.65
5-(4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide	24.98
2-(4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide	34.16
2-(4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide	24.67
5-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide	23.03
2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide	24.67
2-(4- <i>n</i> -butylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide	32.92
2-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide	6.17
2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide	14.72
5-(4-ethoxyphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide	36.22
5-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide	54.41
5-(4- <i>n</i> -butylphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide	11.05
2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide	29.69
2-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide	44.56
2-(4- <i>n</i> -butylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide	24.54



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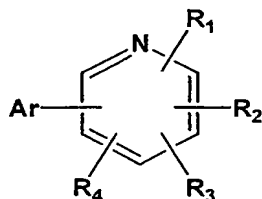
Having now fully described this invention, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that the same can be performed within a wide and equivalent range of conditions, formulations and other parameters without  
5 affecting the scope of the invention or any embodiment thereof.

Other embodiments of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from consideration of the specification and practice of the invention disclosed herein. It is intended that the specification and examples be considered as exemplary only, with a true scope and spirit of the invention  
10 being indicated by the following claims.

All patents and publications cited herein are fully incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

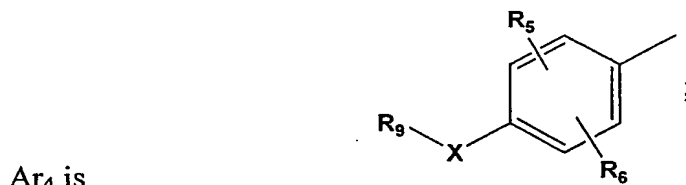
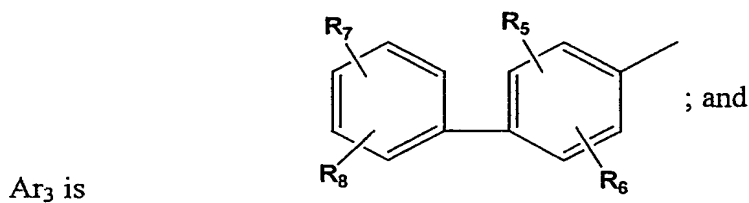
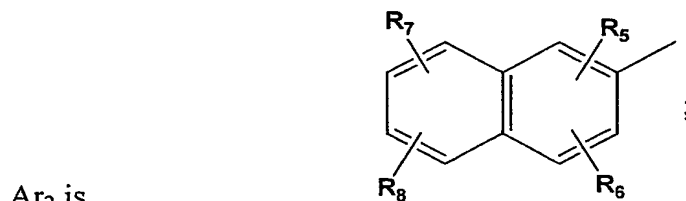
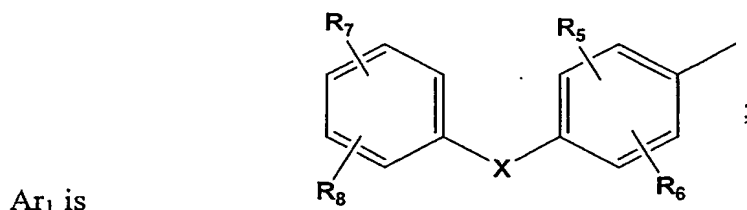
## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound having the Formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

- 5 Ar is selected from the group consisting of Ar<sub>1</sub>, Ar<sub>2</sub>, Ar<sub>3</sub> and Ar<sub>4</sub>, wherein



- 10 R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of an optionally substituted alkyl, amino, alkylthiol, C(O)R<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, OC(O)NH<sub>2</sub>, 2-imidazolynyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, and 3-(1,2,4)-triazolyl;

R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, halogen, hydroxy,

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cycloalkyl, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino;

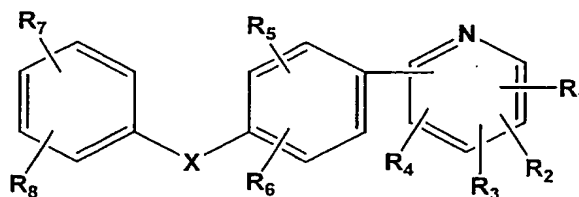
provided that

- 5           1) the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with regard to Ar and R<sub>1</sub> or any of R<sub>2</sub>-R<sub>4</sub> that is other than hydrogen; and
- 2) when Ar is Ar<sub>2</sub> or Ar<sub>3</sub>, then R<sub>1</sub> is C(O)R<sub>10</sub>;
- 3) when Ar is Ar<sub>4</sub>, then R<sub>1</sub> is aminocarbonyl or an optionally substituted heterocycloalkylaminocarbonyl;
- 10           R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, and R<sub>8</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, amide, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, ureido, acylamino, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, carbonylamido and alkylthiol;
- 15           R<sub>9</sub> is an optionally substituted alkyl;
- R<sub>10</sub> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, OR<sub>11</sub>, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkenylamino, alkylaminoalkenyl-amino, hydroxyaminoalkenylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl,
- 20           cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that R<sub>10</sub> is not OR<sub>11</sub> when R<sub>1</sub> is SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>; wherein
- R<sub>11</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, and an alkali metal; and
- 25           X is one of O, S, NH, or CH<sub>2</sub> when Ar is Ar<sub>1</sub>; or
- X is one of O, S, NH, or absent (a covalent bond) when Ar is Ar<sub>4</sub>.
- with the provisos that:
- 4) when Ar is Ar<sub>1</sub>, X is O, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> are each hydrogen, and R<sub>1</sub> is an alkyl group, then R<sub>8</sub> is other than an optionally substituted
- 30           alkoxy group; and

- 5) when Ar is Ar<sub>4</sub>, and X is O or absent and R<sub>1</sub> is aminocarbonyl, then R<sub>9</sub> is not a straight chain alkyl group optionally mono-substituted with halogen, carboxy, alkoxy, an optionally substituted phenyl, or an optionally substituted aminocarbonyl.

5

2. A compound having the Formula II:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

- R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of an optionally substituted alkyl, amino, alkylthiol, C(O)R<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, OC(O)NH<sub>2</sub>, 2-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, and 3-(1,2,4)-triazolyl;

- R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, halogen, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino;

provided that the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with regard to the aryl radical and R<sub>1</sub> or any of R<sub>2</sub>-R<sub>4</sub> that is other than hydrogen;

- R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, and R<sub>8</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, amide, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, ureido, acylamino, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, carbonylamido and alkylthiol; and

- R<sub>10</sub> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, OR<sub>11</sub>, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkenylamino, alkylaminoalkenylamino, hydroxyaminoalkenylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl,

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arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that  $R_{10}$  is not  $OR_{11}$  when  $R_1$  is  $SO_2R_{10}$ ; wherein

$R_{11}$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, and an alkali metal; and

5 X is one of O, S, NH, or  $CH_2$ ;

with the proviso that when X is O,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are each hydrogen, and  $R_1$  is an alkyl group, then  $R_8$  is other than an optionally substituted alkoxy group.

10 3. The compound of claim 2, wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl optionally substituted by halogen or hydroxy,  $C(O)R_{10}$ ,  $SO_2R_{10}$ , 2-imidazolynyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, and 5-isoxazolyl, wherein  $R_{10}$  is as defined in claim 2, provided that  $R_{10}$  is not  $OR_{11}$  when  $R_1$  is  $SO_2R_{10}$ .

15

4. The compound of claim 3, wherein  $R_{10}$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl,  $OR_{11}$ , amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, and heterocycloalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, and wherein  
20  $R_{11}$  is as defined in claim 2.

5. The compound of claim 2, wherein  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, amino, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl,  
25 alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino.

6. The compound of claim 5, wherein  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aminoalkyl and aminocarbonyl,  
30 and both  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are hydrogen.

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7. The compound of claim 2, wherein  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ , and  $R_8$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, and cyano.

8. The compound of claim 7, wherein  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  are both hydrogen and  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, haloalkyl, and nitro.

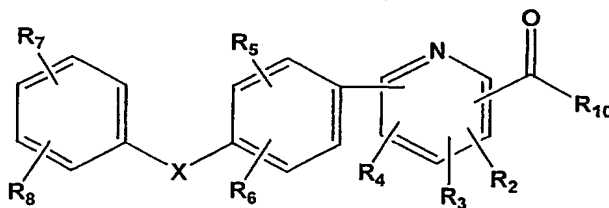
9. The compound of claim 2, wherein X is O or S.

10. The compound of claim 9, wherein X is O.

11. The compound of claim 2, wherein  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are hydrogen, X is O or S and  $R_1$  is aminocarbonyl.

12. The compound of claim 2, wherein  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are hydrogen, X is O or S and  $R_1$  is 2-(N-piperidiny)ethylamide.

13. The compound of claim 2, having the Formula III:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein;

$R_2$ ,  $R_5$ - $R_8$ ,  $R_{10}$  and X are as defined in claim 2, provided that the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with regard to the aryl radical and  $-C(O)R_{10}$  or any of  $R_2$ - $R_4$  that is other than hydrogen.

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14. The compound of claim 13, wherein  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, amino, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino.

15. The compound of claim 14, wherein  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aminoalkyl and aminocarbonyl.

16. The compound of claim 13, wherein  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ , and  $R_8$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, and cyano.

17. The compound of claim 16, wherein  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  are both hydrogen and  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, haloalkyl, and nitro.

18. The compound of claim 13, wherein  $R_{10}$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl,  $OR_{11}$ , amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, and heterocycloalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that  $R_{10}$  is not  $OR_{11}$  when  $R_1$  is  $SO_2R_{10}$ , and wherein  $R_{11}$  is as defined in claim 2.

19. The compound of claim 13, wherein X is O or S.

20. The compound of claim 19, wherein X is O.

21. The compound of claim 13, wherein X is O;

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$R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aminoalkyl, and aminocarbonyl;

$R_3$  and  $R_4$  are both hydrogen;

$R_5$  and  $R_6$  are both hydrogen;

5  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, haloalkyl, and nitro; and

$R_{10}$  is amino or heterocycloalkylamino.

22. The compound of claim 2, wherein said compound is:

10 2-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine-3-carboxamide;

2-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine-4-carboxamide;

2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide;

2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide;

5-(4-phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide

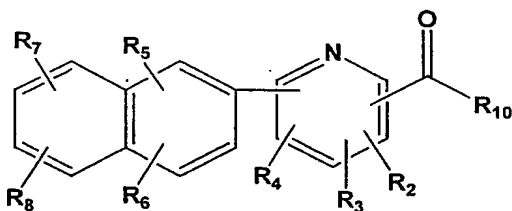
15 2-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine 5-carboxylic acid 2-(N-piperidinyl)ethylamide;

5-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine 3-carboxylic acid 2-(N-piperidinyl)ethylamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

20

23. A compound of claim 1, having the Formula IV:



IV

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

25  $R_2$ - $R_8$  are as defined in claim 1, provided that the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with regard to the naphthyl radical and  $-C(O)R_{10}$  or any of  $R_2$ - $R_4$  that is other than hydrogen.

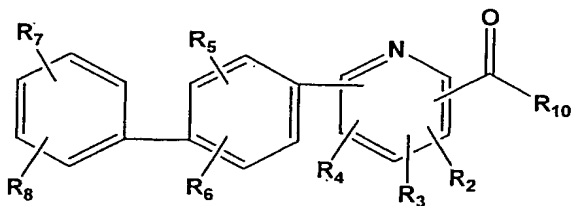


- 56 -

24. A compound of claim 23, wherein said compound is:  
 5-(2-naphthyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide;  
 2-(2-naphthyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide;  
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

5

25. The compound of claim 1, having the Formula V:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

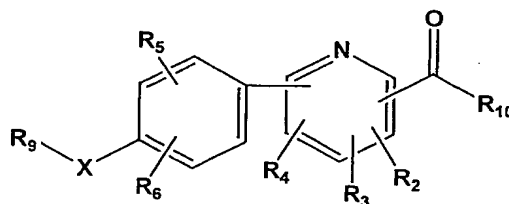
R<sub>2</sub>-R<sub>8</sub> are defined in claim 1;

- 10 provided that the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with regard to the biphenyl radical and -C(O)R<sub>10</sub> or any of R<sub>2</sub>-R<sub>4</sub> that is other than hydrogen.

26. The compound of claim 25, wherein said compound is:

- 15 2-(4-phenylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide;  
 2-(4-phenylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide;  
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

27. The compound of claim 1, having the Formula VI:



20

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof,  
 wherein:

R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, and R<sub>9</sub> are defined in claim 1, X is one of O, S, NH, or absent,  
 and R<sub>10</sub> is amino or heterocycloalkylamino;

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provided that the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with regard to the phenyl radical and  $-C(O)R_{10}$ ; and

when X is O or absent and  $R_{10}$  is amino, then  $R_9$  is not a straight chain alkyl group optionally mono-substituted with halogen, carboxy, alkoxy, an optionally substituted phenyl, or an optionally substituted aminocarbonyl.

28. The compound of claim 27, wherein  $R_9$  is selected from the group consisting of *tert*-butyl, *i*-propyl, thiomethyl, trifluoromethyl, and trifluoromethoxy.

29. The compound of claim 27, wherein  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, and cyano.

30. The compound of claim 29, wherein  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  are both hydrogen.

31. The compound of claim 27, wherein X is O, S or absent.

32. The compound of claim 27, wherein said compound is:

5-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide;

2-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide;

2-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide

2-(4-*i*-propylphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide;

5-(4-thiomethylphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide;

2-(4-thiomethylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide;

5-(4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide;

2-(4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide;

2-(4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)pyridine-4-carboxamide;

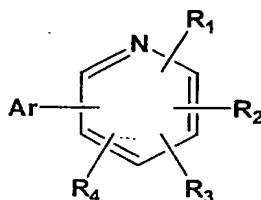
5-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridine-3-carboxamide;

2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridine-5-carboxamide;

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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

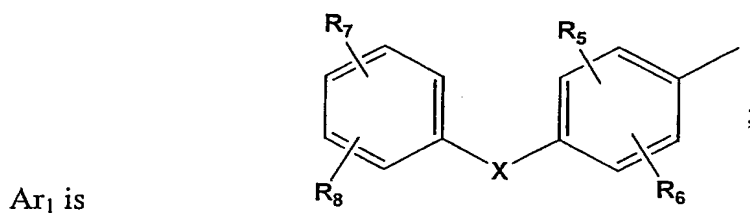
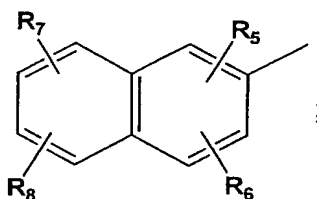
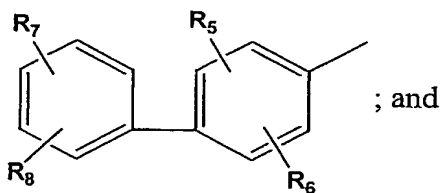
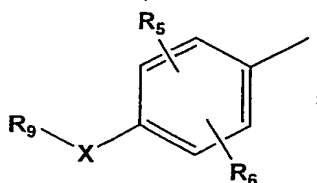
33. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the compound of formula:



5

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

Ar is selected from the group consisting of Ar<sub>1</sub>, Ar<sub>2</sub>, Ar<sub>3</sub> and Ar<sub>4</sub>, wherein

10 Ar<sub>2</sub> isAr<sub>3</sub> isAr<sub>4</sub> is

R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of an optionally substituted alkyl, amino, alkylthiol, C(O)R<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, OC(O)NH<sub>2</sub>, 2-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, and 3-(1,2,4)-triazolyl;

15

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R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, halogen, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino;

provided that

- 1) the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with regard to Ar and R<sub>1</sub> or any of R<sub>2</sub>-R<sub>4</sub> that is other than hydrogen; and
- 2) when Ar is Ar<sub>2</sub> or Ar<sub>3</sub>, then R<sub>1</sub> is C(O)R<sub>10</sub>;
- 3) when Ar is Ar<sub>4</sub>, then R<sub>1</sub> is aminocarbonyl or an optionally substituted heterocycloalkylaminocarbonyl;

R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, and R<sub>8</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, amide, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, ureido, acylamino, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, carbonylamido and alkylthiol;

R<sub>9</sub> is an optionally substituted alkyl;

R<sub>10</sub> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, OR<sub>11</sub>, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkenylamino, alkylaminoalkenylamino, hydroxyaminoalkenylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that R<sub>10</sub> is not OR<sub>11</sub> when R<sub>1</sub> is SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>; wherein

R<sub>11</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, and an alkali metal; and

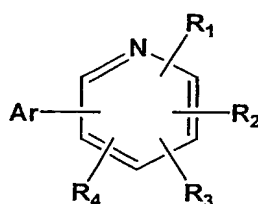
X is one of O, S, NH, or CH<sub>2</sub> when Ar is Ar<sub>1</sub>; or

X is one of O, S, NH, or absent (a covalent bond) when Ar is Ar<sub>4</sub>; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

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34. The composition of claim 33, wherein the compound is as claimed in any one of claims 1-32.

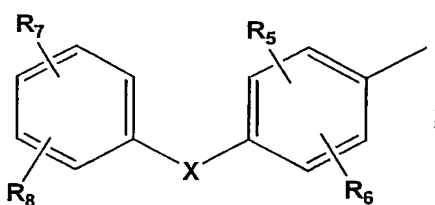
35. A method of treating a disorder responsive to the blockade of sodium channels in a mammal suffering therefrom, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula:



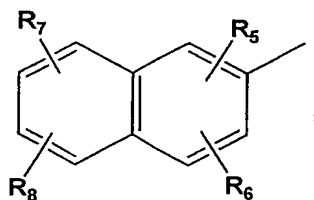
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

Ar is selected from the group consisting of Ar<sub>1</sub>, Ar<sub>2</sub>, Ar<sub>3</sub> and Ar<sub>4</sub>, wherein

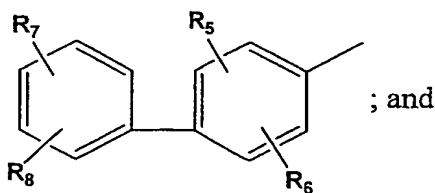
Ar<sub>1</sub> is



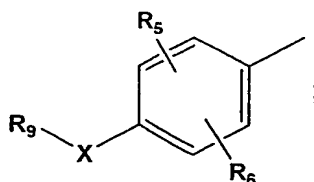
Ar<sub>2</sub> is



Ar<sub>3</sub> is



Ar<sub>4</sub> is



$R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of an optionally substituted alkyl, amino, alkylthiol,  $C(O)R_{10}$ ,  $SO_2R_{10}$ ,  $OC(O)NH_2$ , 2-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, and 3-(1,2,4)-triazolyl;

$R_2$ ,  $R_3$ , and  $R_4$  are independently selected from the group consisting of  
5 hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, halogen, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino;

provided that

- 10 1) the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with regard to Ar and  $R_1$  or any of  $R_2$ - $R_4$  that is other than hydrogen; and  
2) when Ar is  $Ar_2$  or  $Ar_3$ , then  $R_1$  is  $C(O)R_{10}$ ;  
3) when Ar is  $Ar_4$ , then  $R_1$  is aminocarbonyl or an optionally substituted heterocycloalkylaminocarbonyl;

15  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ , and  $R_8$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, amide, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, ureido, acylamino, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, carbonylamido and alkylthiol;

20  $R_9$  is an optionally substituted alkyl;

$R_{10}$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl,  $OR_{11}$ , amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkenylamino, alkylaminoalkenyl-  
25 amino, hydroxyaminoalkenylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that  $R_{10}$  is not  $OR_{11}$  when  $R_1$  is  $SO_2R_{10}$ ; wherein

$R_{11}$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, and an alkali metal; and

30 X is one of O, S, NH, or  $CH_2$  when Ar is  $Ar_1$ ; or

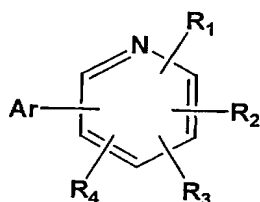
X is one of O, S, NH, or absent (a covalent bond) when Ar is  $Ar_4$ .

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36. The method of claim 35, wherein the compound administered is as claimed in any one of the claims 1-32.

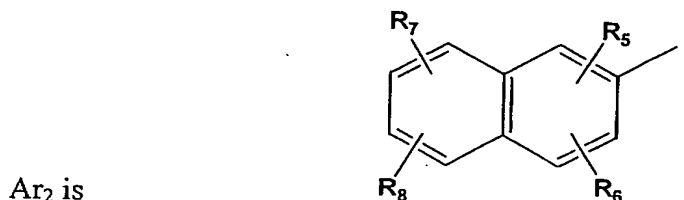
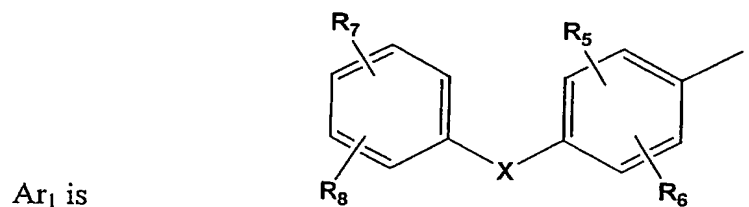
5

37. A method for treating, preventing or ameliorating neuronal loss following global and focal ischemia; treating, preventing or ameliorating neurodegenerative conditions; treating, preventing or ameliorating pain or tinnitus; treating, preventing or ameliorating manic depression; providing local  
 10 anesthesia; or treating arrhythmias, or treating convulsions, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound formula:

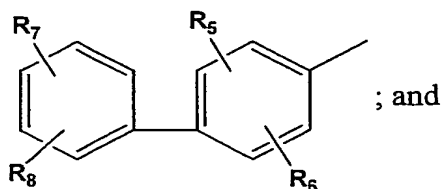
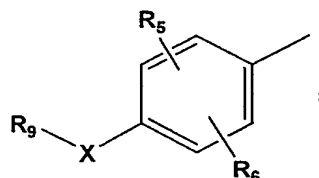


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

15 Ar is selected from the group consisting of Ar<sub>1</sub>, Ar<sub>2</sub>, Ar<sub>3</sub> and Ar<sub>4</sub>, wherein



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Ar<sub>3</sub> isAr<sub>4</sub> is

R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of an optionally substituted alkyl, amino, alkylthiol, C(O)R<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, OC(O)NH<sub>2</sub>, 2-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, and 3-(1,2,4)-triazolyl;

R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, halogen, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino;

provided that

- 1) the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with regard to Ar and R<sub>1</sub> or any of R<sub>2</sub>-R<sub>4</sub> that is other than hydrogen; and
- 2) when Ar is Ar<sub>2</sub> or Ar<sub>3</sub>, then R<sub>1</sub> is C(O)R<sub>10</sub>;
- 3) when Ar is Ar<sub>4</sub>, then R<sub>1</sub> is aminocarbonyl or an optionally substituted heterocycloalkylaminocarbonyl;

R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, and R<sub>8</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, amide, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, ureido, acylamino, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, carbonylamido and alkylthiol;

R<sub>9</sub> is an optionally substituted alkyl;

R<sub>10</sub> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, OR<sub>11</sub>, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkenylamino, alkylaminoalkenyl-



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amino, hydroxyaminoalkenylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that  $R_{10}$  is not  $OR_{11}$  when  $R_1$  is  $SO_2R_{10}$ ; wherein

5  $R_{11}$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, and an alkali metal; and

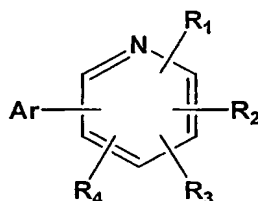
$X$  is one of O, S, NH, or  $CH_2$  when Ar is  $Ar_1$ ; or

$X$  is one of O, S, NH, or absent (a covalent bond) when Ar is  $Ar_4$ .

10 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the compound administered is as claimed in any one of claims 1-32.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein the method is for treating, preventing or ameliorating pain and said pain is one of neuropathic pain,  
15 surgical pain or chronic pain.

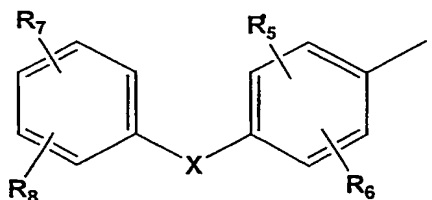
40. A method of alleviating or preventing seizure activity in an animal subject, comprising administering to said animal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula:



20

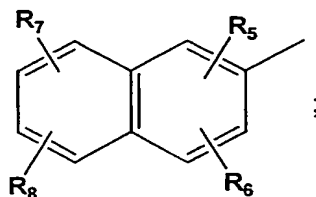
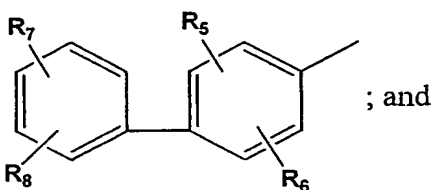
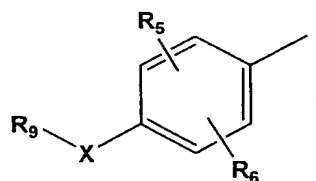
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

Ar is selected from the group consisting of  $Ar_1$ ,  $Ar_2$ ,  $Ar_3$  and  $Ar_4$ , wherein



$Ar_1$  is

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Ar<sub>2</sub> isAr<sub>3</sub> isAr<sub>4</sub> is

R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of an optionally substituted  
 5 alkyl, amino, alkylthiol, C(O)R<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, OC(O)NH<sub>2</sub>, 2-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, and 3-(1,2,4)-triazolyl;

R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of  
 hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, halogen, hydroxy,  
 cycloalkyl, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl,  
 10 alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl,  
 alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino;

provided that

- 1) the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with regard to Ar  
 and R<sub>1</sub> or any of R<sub>2</sub>-R<sub>4</sub> that is other than hydrogen; and
- 15 2) when Ar is Ar<sub>2</sub> or Ar<sub>3</sub>, then R<sub>1</sub> is C(O)R<sub>10</sub>;
- 3) when Ar is Ar<sub>4</sub>, then R<sub>1</sub> is aminocarbonyl or an optionally  
 substituted heterocycloalkylaminocarbonyl;

R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, and R<sub>8</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting  
 of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl,  
 20 hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, amide, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, ureido,  
 acylamino, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, carbonylamido and  
 alkylthiol;

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R<sub>9</sub> is an optionally substituted alkyl;

R<sub>10</sub> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, OR<sub>11</sub>, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkenylamino, alkylaminoalkenyl-  
 5 amino, hydroxyaminoalkenylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that R<sub>10</sub> is not OR<sub>11</sub> when R<sub>1</sub> is SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>; wherein

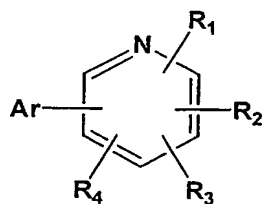
R<sub>11</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally  
 10 substituted alkyl, and an alkali metal; and

X is one of O, S, NH, or CH<sub>2</sub> when Ar is Ar<sub>1</sub>; or

X is one of O, S, NH, or absent (a covalent bond) when Ar is Ar<sub>4</sub>.

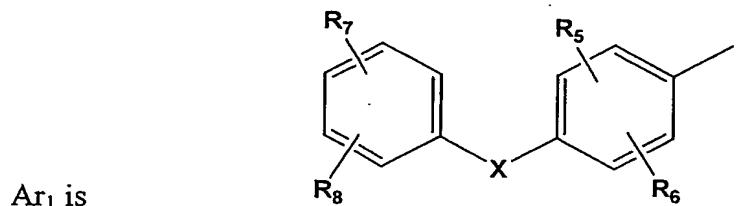
41. The method of claim 40, wherein the compound administered is  
 15 as claimed in any one of claims 1-32.

42. A compound having the Formula I:

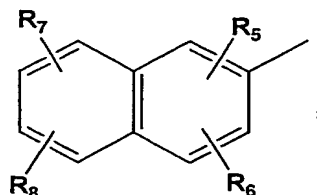
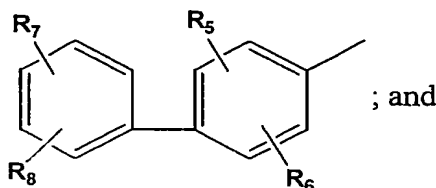
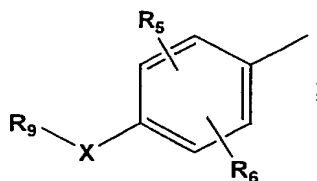


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

20 Ar is selected from the group consisting of Ar<sub>1</sub>, Ar<sub>2</sub>, Ar<sub>3</sub> and Ar<sub>4</sub>, wherein



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Ar<sub>2</sub> isAr<sub>3</sub> isAr<sub>4</sub> is

R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of an optionally substituted  
 5 alkyl, amino, alkylthiol, C(O)R<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, OC(O)NH<sub>2</sub>, 2-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, and 3-(1,2,4)-triazolyl;

R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of  
 hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, halogen, hydroxy,  
 cycloalkyl, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl,  
 10 alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl,  
 alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino;

provided that

- 1) the pyridyl ring is other than 2,6-disubstituted with regard to Ar  
 and R<sub>1</sub> or any of R<sub>2</sub>-R<sub>4</sub> that is other than hydrogen; and
- 15 2) when Ar is Ar<sub>2</sub> or Ar<sub>3</sub>, then R<sub>1</sub> is C(O)R<sub>10</sub>;
- 3) when Ar is Ar<sub>4</sub>, then R<sub>1</sub> is aminocarbonyl or an optionally  
 substituted heterocycloalkylaminocarbonyl;

R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, and R<sub>8</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting  
 of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl,  
 20 hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, amide, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, ureido,  
 acylamino, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, carbonylamido and  
 alkylthiol;

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R<sub>9</sub> is an optionally substituted alkyl;

R<sub>10</sub> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, OR<sub>11</sub>, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkenylamino, alkylaminoalkenyl-  
5 amino, hydroxyaminoalkenylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that R<sub>10</sub> is not OR<sub>11</sub> when R<sub>1</sub> is SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>; wherein

R<sub>11</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally  
10 substituted alkyl, and an alkali metal; and

X is one of O, S, NH, or CH<sub>2</sub> when Ar is Ar<sub>1</sub>; or

X is one of O, S, NH, or absent (a covalent bond) when Ar is Ar<sub>4</sub>,  
wherein said compound is <sup>3</sup>H or <sup>14</sup>C radiolabeled.

15           43.    Use of a compound of claim 42 as a radioligand for its binding site on the sodium channel.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte      nal Application No  
PCT/US 02/28298

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7    A61K31/4418    C07D213/82    C07D213/81    A61P23/00    A61P25/08  
A61P9/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7    C07D    A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, BEILSTEIN Data, CHEM ABS Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98 37068 A (SQUIBB BRISTOL MYERS CO) 27 August 1998 (1998-08-27) page 6; claim 1; examples 77,81,93,96,110,115,118 page 3, line 5 - line 27 ---	1-43
X	GOMEZ-PARRA V ET AL: "New cardiotonic agents related to amrinone: synthesis of 1,2-dihydro-5-arylpyridin-2-ones" ARCHIV DER PHARMAZIE (WEINHEIM, GERMANY) (1992), 325(8), 483-490, XP001120644 scheme 1 page 485, left-hand column, last paragraph - right-hand column, first paragraph --- -/--	1,27-43



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*G\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

26 November 2002

Date of mailing of the International search report

06/12/2002

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter. Application No.

PCT/US 02/28298

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 530 842 A (BORMANN GERHARD) 23 July 1985 (1985-07-23) column 1, line 9 - line 43 column 9, line 34 - column 10, line 24 column 11, line 3 - line 61 ----	1,27-43
X	EP 0 428 628 A (GEN ELECTRIC) 29 May 1991 (1991-05-29) page 2, line 1 - line 10; claim 1; examples 2B,9B ----	1,27-34, 42
X	CHAMBERS R J ET AL: "Biarylcarboxamide inhibitors of phosphodiesterase IV and tumor necrosis factor-alpha" BIOORGANIC & MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY LETTERS, OXFORD, GB, vol. 7, no. 6, 18 March 1997 (1997-03-18), pages 739-744, XP004136120 ISSN: 0960-894X the whole document ----	33,42
X	EP 0 706 795 A (PFIZER) 17 April 1996 (1996-04-17) claims 1,6,8; example 23 ----	33,42
X	WO 01 47904 A (BAUMEISTER JUDITH ;HENNINGER KERSTIN (DE); BETZ ULRICH (DE); JENSE) 5 July 2001 (2001-07-05) page 1, line 3 - line 5; claim 8; example 129 ----	33,42
X	DE 32 39 573 A (BYK GULDEN LOMBERG CHEM FAB) 19 May 1983 (1983-05-19) claims 1,6,7; examples 18,22,25 ----	33,42
X	DE 32 45 950 A (BYK GULDEN LOMBERG CHEM FAB) 7 July 1983 (1983-07-07) page 40, line 3 - line 8; claim 1; example 6 ----	33,42
P,X	WO 01 68612 A (COCENSYS INC ;NGUYEN PHONG (US); SHAO BIN (US); HOGENKAMP DERK J () 20 September 2001 (2001-09-20) the whole document particularly table 3, 2-methyl-6-'4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl!-3-p yridinecarboxamide -----	1-43

## FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 1-43 (all partially)

The present claims relate to an extremely large number of possible compounds. Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only a very small proportion of the compounds claimed. In addition, the initial phase of the search revealed a very large number of documents relevant to the issue of novelty. So many documents were retrieved that it is impossible to determine which parts of the claims may be said to define subject-matter for which protection might legitimately be sought (Article 6 PCT). For these reasons, a meaningful search over the whole breadth of the claims is impossible.

Consequently, the search has been restricted to compounds according to claim 1 and the "first medical use" according to claim 33 wherein R1 is as defined in proviso 3, i.e. aminocarbonyl or an optionally substituted heterocyclo-alkyl-aminocarbonyl.

It is noted that the search does not include prodrugs of the compounds of formula I since this functional term does not enable the skilled person to determine which technical features are necessary to perform the stated function. It is thus unclear which specific compounds fall within the scope of said term (Article 6 PCT).

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US 02/28298

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
  
Although claims 35-41 and 43 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 1-43 (all partially)  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:  
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Inte 1al Application No

PCT/US 02/28298

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II INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT  
Information on patent family members

International Application No  
PCT/US 02/28298

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